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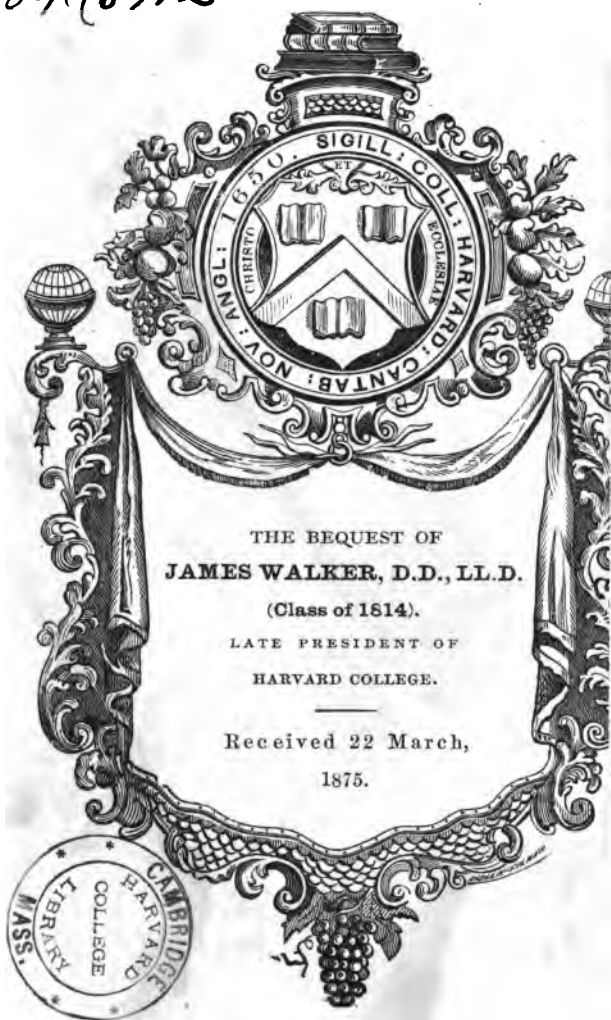
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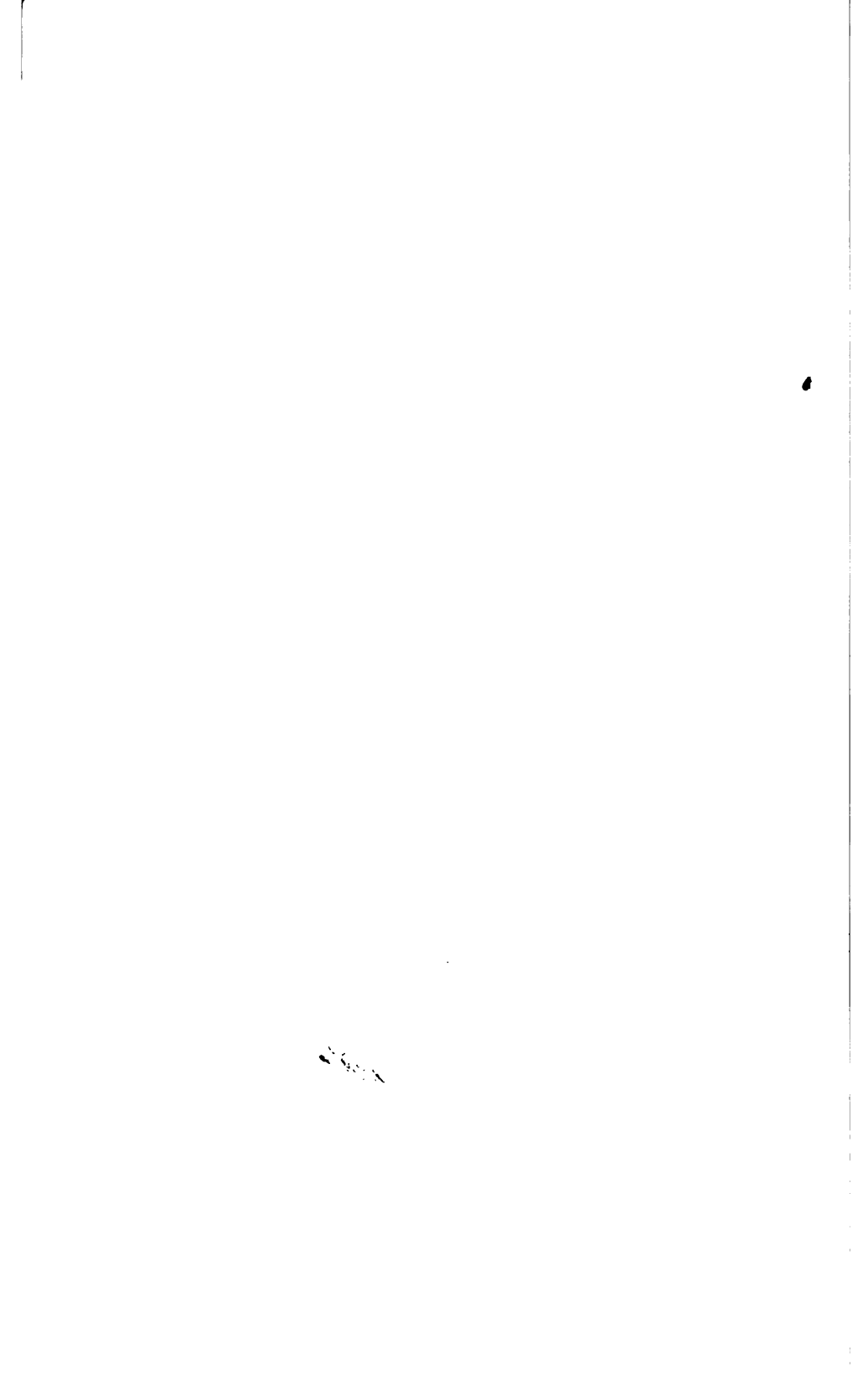
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LITERARY ANECDOTES  
AND  
CONTEMPORARY REMINISCENCES,  
OF PROFESSOR PORSON AND OTHERS;  
FROM THE MANUSCRIPT PAPERS OF THE LATE  
E. H. BARKER ESQ. OF THETFORD,  
NORFOLK.

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*VOLUME II.*

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*c'*  
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1852.

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# PORSONIANA,

OR

ANECDOTES OF PROFESSOR PORSON,

&c.

1.

HEACHAM, near LYNN, visited DR DAVY about Aug. or Sept. 1834. AKERS lived at BRANCASTER; he was a famous writer; DAVY has seen beautiful specimens of his writing.

Porson's father was a weaver, and WORSTED is in the neighbourhood; on the Revocation of the Edict of Nantz, many weavers came over thither.

PORSON always spoke highly of his mother.

DR DAVY never saw TOM PORSON or any other Members of the family, [unless it were Siday Hawes Junior.]

I think that PORSON was described by him as something of an *Adonis*.

DR D. had marked a passage in A. GELL. 13, 8. where *wisdom* is described as made up of *use* and *memory*.

PORS.

1

WARNER, in his *Literary Recollections*, tells a story about PORSON's having written 1000 *Epigrams* in one night.

## 2. THE TRINITY.

*Porson* was walking with a Trinitarian friend ; they had been speaking of the Trinity ; a buggy came by with three men in it ; 'There,' says he, 'is an illustration of the Trinity ;' 'No,' said his friend Porson, 'you must shew me one man in *three* buggies, if you can.' So, says Mr Rodd.

Mr Epps says that the father of the present Sheepshanks destroyed some Letters of Sir Isaac Newton because they were not 'considered creditable to his memory :—Most probably religious opinions. The destruction was wicked.

Basil was actually expelled from the Astronomical Society, for non-payment of arrears of subscription-money.

Sir Isaac Newton's Niece, on the death of the Marchioness of Hallifax, became Mistress to the Marquis ; money was bought into the funds in his and her name, so that he was privy to the transaction.

## 3.

MR BASIL MONTAGU says that PORSON was asked if he had dined ? He replied, 'Yesterday.'

## 4. PORSON'S WIFE.

Miss Raine is the Lady, to whom Mr Kidd alludes as having specimens of Porson's writing etc.

Mrs Luxmore, wife of Dr Luxmore, Bp of St Asaph, has Porson's *Frying-pan out of the Fire*, and the Bishop must have Letters from Porson.

Tom Atkins, well known at Newmarket, [on whose authority no great reliance can be placed,] met Porson carrying something under his arm, and asked him what it was? It is a pair of breeches, which I am carrying to my wife's husband to mend. Porson had married Mrs Luman, who was divorced from her husband by the Scotch law, and that husband was a tailor.

Mr Kidd at my house, July. 14, 1829.

Some one said to Porson that he had been told something by a friend about *the peace of Antalcidas* [*with the i pronounced short*] ; and I said Porson was told by a friend yesterday that it was Antalcidas [*with the i long*].

## 5.

## ANECDOTE OF HORNE TOOKE AND PROFESSOR PORSON.

The Professor, it seems, at Mr Tooke's own table, had threatened to kick and cuff him. Tooke, however persisted in fighting it out 'in a couple of quarts of brandy,' a kind of duel sufficiently to the Professor's taste, but which soon laid him senseless on the floor. Upon this, the victor, in this new Olympic game, taking hold of his antagonist's limbs in succession, exclaimed, 'This is the foot, that was to have kicked, and the hand that was to have cuffed me.' And then drinking one glass more to the speedy recovery of his prostrate adversary, ordered that great care should be taken of Mr P., and withdrew into an adjacent apartment, where tea and coffee had been prepared, with the same seeming calmness, as if nothing

had happened." *Wit and Wisdom, or, The World's Jest-Book*, 2nd Edition, 1828, 12mo, p. 66.

## 6.

Diogenes Laertius states that Aristippus, when reading the Socratic Dialogues of Æschines, called out, 'Where did you get these from, you thief?' He pretended to have received his Dialogues from Xanthippe, wife of Socrates. Little reliance, says my Lempriere, can be placed in this account.

See my *Lempriere in Callicrates*.

## 7. PROFESSOR PORSON.

We have seldom read a better story, to say the least of it, than the following. As to the *facts* of it, we can only say that the statement rests on the authority of the author of *Lacon*, whence it is extracted: — Porson was once travelling in a stage-coach, when a young Oxonian, fresh from College, was amusing the ladies with a variety of talk, and amongst other things, with a quotation, as he said, from Sophocles. A Greek quotation, and in a coach too, roused our slumbering Professor from a kind of dog-sleep, in a snug corner of the vehicle. Shaking his ears, and rubbing his eyes, 'I think, young gentleman,' said he, 'you favored us just now with a quotation from Sophocles; I do not happen to recollect it there.' 'Oh, Sir,' replied our tyro, 'the quotation is word for word as I have repeated it, and in Sophocles too; but I suspect, Sir, that it is some time since *you* were at College.' The Professor applying his hand to his great-coat, and taking out a small pocket-edition of Sophocles, quietly asked him if he would be kind enough to shew him the passage in question in that little book. After rummaging the leaves for some time, he replied, 'On second

thoughts, I now recollect that the passage is in Euripides.' 'Then perhaps, Sir,' said the Professor, putting his hand again into his pocket, and handing him a similar edition of Euripides, 'You will be so good as to find it for me in that little book.' The young Oxonian returned to his task, but with no better success. The tittering of the ladies informed him that he had got into a hobble. At last, 'Bless me, Sir,' said he 'how dull I am! I recollect now, yes, I perfectly remember that the passage is in Æschylus.' The inexorable Professor returned again to his inexhaustible pocket, and was in the act of handing him an Æschylus, when our astonished freshman vociferated, — 'Stop the coach, holloah, coachman, let me out I say, instantly — let me out! there's a fellow here, has got the whole Bodleian Library in his pocket.'

## 8.

PORSON, according to MR UPCOTT, was to be seen often at breakfast with a pot of porter, and a bit of cheese and bread before him; in the dirtiest attire, and with black patches on his nose.

He considers that PORSON had Letters from RUHNKEN, VILLOISON, etc.

He said that there was a *Simplicius* with the *Additaments* in the LONDON-INSTITUTION.

PORSON's *Horace* was sold at HEBER's sale: enquire for the purchaser.

DR GOODALL told GEO. BURGESS that BURNEY was assisted by PORSON in *Sampson Agonistes* or *Caractacus*; the fact is confirmed by PORSON's silently quoting some of the matter; *φόνου σταλάγματα*, and Markl. *Suppl.*; PAYNE KNIGHT, Arts

and Sciences, *Iliad* 200 years older; *hanc emendationem J. PEARSONO commondravi.*

## 9.

Mr B. Montagu was in the house of Mr Godwin, when word was brought to him that his wife was dead. He said to the servant, 'What evidence have you of the fact?'

## 10.

It was for Mr Upcott that PORSON corrected more than 2000 errors in the reprint, by White and Cochrane of Fleet-Street, of the first folio edition of Shakespeare. Mr Wheatley bought it of Upcott; Mr Perry bought it of Wheatley, and it was sold at Perry's sale to . . . . .

It was while PORSON belonged to the London-Institution.

## 11.

LINES TAKEN FROM THE EUROPEAN MAGAZINE  
*for October, 1808.*

*On the death of Mr Professor Porson, by the Rev.  
James Rudge.*

Manet in animis hominum, in æternitate temporum, fama rerum.

TACITUS.

PORSON is dead, — a name to all endear'd,  
By Science courted, and by Cam rever'd;  
PORSON is dead, — in him hath learning lost  
Its chiefest ornament, and proudest boast;  
Him Science mourns, — in him was close combin'd  
Whate'er could dignify the human kind;

Profoundly skill'd, — in learning deeply read,  
 He form'd the *judgment*, while the *taste* he led ;  
 Whate'er the subject, that engag'd his mind,  
 By him enlighten'd, was by him refin'd ;  
 The scholar, critic, — he explained the art  
 To mend the *judgment*, and inform the *heart* ;  
 In Grecian learning he was deeply vers'd,  
 The best of Grecians, he was *own'd* the first ; —  
 So deeply vers'd, so skill'd in Grecian lore,  
 A loss so deep must science e'er deplore !  
 That mind, which oft illum'd the Classic page,  
 And smooth'd the labors of a distant age,  
 Is fled to mansions of eternal rest,  
 And there exists among the wise and blest !  
 Oct. 8, 1808.

### 12. Ireland's Shakespeare MSS.

Amongst others, who paid their respects to the MSS of Pseudo-Shakespeare, in Norfolk-Street, PROFESSOR PORSON, was prevailed upon by a friend to visit them. After looking at them for a short time, he turned aside to survey the window and the room. Astonished at this indifference, Mr Ireland requested him to put down his name among those of believers in their genuineness. At first PORSON endeavoured to excuse himself as not being an English antiquary ; at length being importuned in a most pressing manner, he said :—‘ Mr Ireland, I detest from the very bottom of my heart subscriptions of all kinds, but especially subscriptions to Articles of Faith. A friend, who accompanied him, said, ‘ Mr Porson, you will always be an humorist.’

13. *Johnson—Porson—Milton.*

"In a conversation I once held with Professor Porson on Dr Johnson's participation in the accusation which Lauder preferred against Milton for plagiarisms from Latin Poets of the modern ages, he mentioned, that the subject had occupied his thoughts with a view to publication; and added, that he only delayed it till he could procure a pamphlet which that controversy produced. Two of the arguments he stated were to my judgement conclusive on the question. 1. That, with a mind always eager for inquiry on every subject connected with literature, as well as greedy of every pretence to depreciate Milton, it is not credible that Johnson, as soon as apprized by Lauder of his alleged discovery, would not have expressed a desire to examine the works himself in which the original passages were asserted to exist. 2. That Johnson, throughout his biography of Milton, has preserved a deep silence on the story of Lauder and his falsified quotations. Mr Porson closed his remarks by saying, in his own emphatic way — Guilty—Death.

At the time I understood him to be prepared for the Press, waiting only to read the tract he mentioned; but as I have been informed, that no such manuscript was at his death to be found among his papers, I now suppose, that he had been contented to retain the whole in his memory."

*Holt-White's Review of Johnson's Criticism on the Style of Milton's English Prose*, 1818, p. 30.

14. *Kidd—Mason.*

July 15, 1829. Mr Kidd spent the day with me. The *Epistle from Oberea*, (which I have in Mathias's volume,) Porson was very fond of; it was attributed to PORSON, but P. posi-

tively denied the authorship. [See Kidd's Tracts of Porson.] He did not however deny that it was written by John Courtney, when Mr. Kidd mentioned to him the name of the latter as the writer.

Mr Kidd has on good authority heard the "Heroic Epistle to Sir Willam Chambers" attributed to Mason. [See the art. *Chambers* in Chalmers's Biogr. Dict.] The Kiug was bothered to bestow some preferment on him. "What," said he, "to the *Heroic Epist.* man?"

#### 15. ADDENDA TO PARRIANA, VOL. 2.

*July 15, 1829.* Mr Kidd at my house explained the Letter of Cleaver Banks about the conduct of Dr Postlethwaite towards Porson. The latter was not disposed to subscribe the Articles and enter the Church: he was ready to sacrifice his Fellowship rather than retain it on such conditions. But Postlethwaite wished to compel him to enter the Church, and refused his consent to allow Porson to take a Lay Fellowship, which was then vacant, and thus deprived him of the means of subsistence.

Mr. Kidd had heard that Parr, when he was shewn the Epitaph on Alexis, observed to Porson—"You do not Mr, Porson, consider this as faultless?" Porson replied that, for every single fault, which Parr could point out, he would find seven.

Mr. Kidd considered that Porson was not well affected to Parr.

## 16. ADDENDA TO PARRIANA, VOL. I.

July 15, 1829. Mr. Kidd dined with me to day, and told to me the story about Porson, mentioned by John Symmons. The anecdote belongs to the Rev. G. H. Glasse. He was in the compainy of Dr. Nicholas, late of Ealing, (still living,) and said that he would bet any wager that for any topic, which was started, he could produce a suitable quotation from Horace. Nicholas was averse to wagers, but Glasse pressed him hard, and Nicholas peevishly said—'My breeches.' Glasse immediately gave the line

Quas et aquæ subeunt et auræ.

Nicholas made a good retort by another quotation, but Mr Kidd never heard, or did not recollect what it was.

The conversation, to which Mr. Kidd alludes in the 'Mix. Tracts,' with the honest Hyperborean, was in the Gray's Inn Coffee House.

Wilkes once remarked, as Mr. Kidd told me, that for any circumstance of life he could find an apt quotation from Horace. "Well," said a friend, "what will you say on your being carried on the shoulders of the mob from the Hustings in Covent Garden to Westminster?"

Humerisque fertur

Lege solutis.

OD. 4, 2, 11.

Geo. IV once said to him—"Now, Wilkes, when did you first sing *God save the King*?" "Why, when I first kissed hands on my appointment to the office of Chamberlain, which I now hold."

Wilkes said of Horne Tooke that he (Tooke) was what he (Wilkes) had never been, a Wilkite. But I must ask again about this.\*

---

\* This is E. H. B.'s own memorandum. Several such occur in these volumes.

17 *Beloe—Wilkes, &c.*

BELOE, in his *Anecdotes of Literature*, has given a Note on Pausanias as his own, which he obtained from Porson, and, at the same time, depreciates the merit of the conjecture itself. PORSON was very angry at this treatment.

At a book-sale PORSON was present, when WILKES's *Theophrastus's Characters* was put up; he observed that, if the book had a *Character*, the editor had *none*. I am not sure that I have recorded this witticism rightly.

PORSON lived for 6 weeks on a guinea, dined on milk, or on a pint of porter with some bread and cheese; could fast two days, and would then eat heartily, if he was invited to dinner; he once nearly eat up a shoulder of mutton at Mr M.'s lodgings, making his apology by speaking of his long previous fast.

PARR's saying about PORTEUS was, (PORSON called him Proteus,) *A poor paltry Prelate, proud of petty popularity, and perpetually preaching to petticoats.*

18. *Burges—Elmsley &c.*

GEORGE BURGES said that Valckenaer in the "Epistle to Rover" had laid open the whole of Eustathius's Library;—all his reading was known. G. B. had seen at Paris a MS., where Eustathius's quotations are noticed on the margin, and assigned to their proper authors.

MITSCHERLICH's edition of the *Homeric Hymns* contains the second edition of Valckenaer's *Epistola Critica*.

LUZAC's house was blown up by the ignition of a vessel containing 20,000lbs of gunpowder; he has some of Valckenaer's MSS. or copies of them, which Luzac gave to him, or allowed him to take, before the occurrence. He has seen a reference to the fire in some modern publication.

ELMSLEY visited the Vatican, and such was MAR's jealousy that he threw every possible obstacle in his way.

I think that Geo. Burges mentioned that there was a curious story about the last volume of GRUTER's *Fax Artium*, (of which Mr Dyce has a copy in very thick paper, sufficient to entitle it to be called a large-paper copy.) Gruter wanted to obtain some readings of, or notes about Plautus; Pareus stood in his way; Gruter afterwards obtained them, and attached them to the *Fax Artium*. I must get an accurate version of the story.

#### 19. MS. Note by Porson.

"Account p. 10. In the list of sixteen Greek Historians, the two last stood thus in Mr Moyle's Letter,

XV. PROCOPIUS.

and

XVI. AGATHIAS.

The sagacious printer, thinking *and* to be, not a particle, but an omitted syllable of the foregoing word, has given us a new Historian, PROANDCOPIUS! This error, (though corrected in the *Errata*,) is worth notice; for thousands full as gross remain uncorrected in books, and are not so easy to detect, or at least to amend. Let any man, for example, try his hand on the *Note* p. 137. ('In the GREEK it is, ἐκ μανδραγόρου καθεύδοντες, for *mandrakes*, as *lib.* 25 assures us.')" MS. Note by Porson on the fly-leaf of WALTER MOYLE's Works, LOND., 1727, 8vo. V. 3, p. 136. LONDON INSTITUTION.)

## 20.

In the London-Institution is an Aldine Herodotus, in which PORSON has beautifully marked all the chapters, but some barbarian has torn off — and with violence — the title-page and fly-leaf, which probably contained some MS. by Porson.

21. *Macintosh—D'Israeli, &c.*

He was once dining with his friend, HENRY CLAYTON JENNINGS, where he got drunk, and was somewhat rude; CAPTAIN ASHE was there, and began to sing a song, but PORSON, preferring his own recitations, said, when he heard an ass beginning to bray, 'Captain, a rival has started up!'

Much was said about Macintosh abandoning for filthy lucre his principles, when he was delivering the Lectures at Lincoln's Inn; PORSON drily observed that Macintosh must have *interest* for his *principal* (*principle*)! He wrote a humorous Catechism quoted by Beloe in his "Sexagenarian or Anecdotes of Scarce Books," but Beloe omits a spicy passage about the Church, for which he merited prosecution as much as Wakefield did. This *Catechism* has been lately reprinted. Mr M. has a copy. [Is it in the *Facetiæ Cantabr.*]

Macintosh and Porson dined together on one occasion, when the former considered that the latter had engaged to accompany him on the following day to dine with Mr. Fox at St. Anne's Hill. When the morrow came, Mr Maltby saw Porson, and reminded him of the engagement. "No," said Porson, "I shall not go to serve the purpose of curiosity, and then to be discarded for ever. He dined with Mr. M, and a most delightful day they had. Raine said that he found Porson quite manageable in his house, and Dr. Maltby told the same

to me at BIRMINGHAM. He has known PORSON to be very dirty at times, and, when he was in very shabby plight, he has been refused admittance by servants, when he knocked at the door of a friend's house. Mr. M. thinks that he occasionally used his bed for more than one purpose, and that MRS. PARR probably intended by her device about the c...e s...s to mark her sense of this awkward occurrence.

DR. MALTBY told to Mr. MALTBY that he wrote the Article in the Athenæum, and he told to him so immediately on its appearance. PORSON certainly wrote the Articles in the *Morn. Chron.*, signed *Mythologus*.

On one occasion when PORSON was drunk, and was ingloriously spread under the table, D'Israeli delivered an insulting and barbarous address to the company about him; PORSON was told of this, and took an occasion of using to him some strong language by way of retort, which he concluded with these remarkable words: "It is impossible for language to express the contempt, which I feel for you." Hence we see why Porson is so severely handled in the *Flim Flams* of D'Israeli.

no. 45  
GIBBON requested to have an interview with Porson, and the latter was very proud of so distinguished a compliment from such a man. Gibbon told to Porson that he was well pleased with the praises of the latter, which, however, contained a due proportion of the acid to temper the sweetness [see GIBBON's *Memoirs*, where I think that this is given in a notice of the *Letters to TRAVIS*.]

MR. M. has met PORSON at the house of JOHN HORNE TOOKE at Wimbledon; Porson was once asked by J. H. Tooke for a toast, when he gave mortal offence by rudely saying, 'I will give you as a toast him, who is the reverse of all which is in J. H. TOOKE.' They had very nearly come to blows, so indignant was the host.

TOOKE maintained that PORSON would drink *ink* in default of other liquids. Something material had occurred to destroy Porson's good opinion of Horne Tooke; and hence the story told by STEPHEN WESTON.

Porson admitted that he learnt much from the Diversions of Purley.

## 22. Roman inscription.

"In the ruins of a Roman building near the Baïæ in Italy, the following Inscription was found on a large piece of marble, which has probably been the portal of a bath, or some apartment of pleasure :

BALNEA, VINA, VENUS, CORRUMPUNT CORPORA NOSTRAS;  
SED VITAM FACIUNT BALNEA, VINA, VENUS:

Baths, women, wine, our health destroy,  
And cut life's scanty line;  
But what has life or health of joy,  
Without baths, women, wine?"

*Proofs of the Enquiry into HOMER's Life and Writings, translated into ENGLISH, LONDON, 1748, 8vo. p. 41. Refer to the Enquiry itself, p. 109 or 110.*

## 23. ELECTRIFYING MACHINES.

*The following is copied from an old printed paper, but, unfortunately has no date.*

This is to give NOTICE, to all GENTLEMEN, LADIES and others,

That there is to be Seen, at the \*

The Electrical Machine, which shows the surprising power of Electricity, by a series of Experiments more than ever were exhibited to Publick, by any apparatus yet extant.

First, It causes a person electrify'd to emit Fire from any part of the Body, so as to set Fire to Spirits of Wine ; the Electric Spark is taken singly, or by the whole Company at once : which was performed before the King and 180 of his Guards, who all felt it at the same time.

The stroke of an electrify'd Phial, and Wire-Fire, produced any where in Wire, 90 or 100 feet long ; the electrify'd Syphon running in Streams and drops of Fire ; Spirits of Wine set on Fire by a Wire suspended in Water : the electrify'd Bell, and Bells, light'ning in Miniature its Pressure of Fluids : the Nature of Gravity, and the Sensitive Plant ; with many other Experiments too tedious to mention.

Many People have received Benefit by the Shock, as it cures old Achs and Pains. To be seen from Nine in the Morning till Nine at Night. Prices 1s. 6d.

24. *Thomson—Allan Ramsay.*

Thomson, the poet, went into a shop at Edinburgh, while Allan Ramsay was there, and said : " I am going to emit to the world something, but do not wish to father it." Ramsay said, ' What would he give him, and he would father it ?'— " The profits."—" A bargain ! " said Ramsay. Thomson delivered to him the MS. of the *Gentle Shepherd*.

---

\* The name of the place is left blank : probably a large number of copies were printed at once, and the place inserted with the pen.

25. *Warton.*

May 1, 1830. A friend this day gave me the following letter—a copy—not the original :

“To the Rev. B. Forster, Boconnoc, near Liskeard, Cornwall.

Dear Sir.

We have finished at the Clarendon Press our new edition of Mr. Toupe’s *Suidas*, and a set is ordered for you. I beg the favor of a line to inform me how the volumes may be most conveniently sent. I am, dear Sir, very sincerely, your most obedient servant, T Warton.

*Trin. Coll., Oxon., Feb. 22, 1790.”*

26. *DISNEY.*

When Colonel Disney was a Westminster boy, he was in the habit of meeting Porson at his Master’s house. When alone with Porson in the evening, the latter asked Disney if he knew his way to the ale-cellar : Disney replied that he did, but that he was engaged in doing his Greek verses. “Never mind them,” said Porson, “I will look to them ; take the largest jug you can find, and fill it with beer.” This Disney did, and on his return found his Greek verses finished. This occurred more than once, and he was always, on such occasions, at the head of his class. He told Porson to write badly.

27. *ELMSLEY—BURGES.*

Porson, being asked his opinion on some passage in a Greek

author, said it was not safe to speak, lest eaves-droppers might be present. G. Burges thought he alluded to Elmsley.

#### 28. MONTAGU.

Basil Montagu said that Porson in his presence read a page or two of a book, and then repeated it by memory. Some one in the company said that was very well, but could he repeat it backwards? Porson began to repeat it so, and got through it, with the omission of only two words.

#### 29. PORSON AND THE SCHOOLMASTER.

A schoolmaster came to speak to Perry about some Greek passage, when Porson, who was present, said "You are wrong, sir." The schoolmaster, looking at Porson's shabby attire and mean appearance, was surprised, and looking up, asked Perry who he was? Perry told him, when he instantly took his hat and departed, without venturing on a discussion.

#### 30.

Porson used to say, of books of high price but of no internal merit, that such rubbish ought to be scarce.

#### 31. BURGES.

Goodall told G. Burges that all the main points of Burney's reviews were written by Porson; he had heard Porson speak of certain subjects discussed or developped therein, long before they appeared in the Review. G. B. thinks that such

matters as the subject of comparatives in *ων* and *οὐδεποτε* with *δὲ* after it were supplied by Porson. In the Hecuba Porson gives something as his own which Burney had given : if not his own, Porson would have quoted Burney as the author. G. B. has only discovered one instance of Porson's giving a conjecture as his own, which belonged to another, and that was from Markland.

### 32. BURGES—BURNEY.

G. Burges says that Porson, once wanting a particular book, went to Burney's Library and fetched it away in his absence. When Burney returned, and learnt the fact, he set off instantly for London, and demanded back the book, saying that Porson might have the run of his library at Greenwich, but that he would lend no book out of it.

### 33. PRIESTLEY—DEMOSTHENES.

Priestley, the bookseller, said that Porson was once in his shop, when a gentleman came in, and asked for a particular edition of Demosthenes, which Priestley had not, but tendered others. Porson's attention was drawn to the enquirer, and he asked whether he wanted to refer to any particular passage : he did, and named the passage. Porson asked Priestley for a copy of the Aldine edition, and, when he had got it, he turned over a few of the leaves, and put his finger on the passage, shewing not only his knowledge of the author, but his familiarity with the position of the passage in that particular edition.

## 34. BURGESS—COMPOSITORS.

Porson advised G. Burgess not to write well for the press, because the printers would employ some inexperienced apprentice upon it, whereas they would give an ill-written manuscript to an able compositor.

## 35. MANISTY.

The Rev. James Manisty, (Vicar of Edlingham, Northumberland), when second Master of Durham School, was once annoying Porson by unmeaning questions. At last the Professor tapped him on the head, and said, "If there was any thing in it, I would crack it!"

## 36. BANNISTER.

Porson and John Bannister the Comedian were one day going down Piccadilly, when Jack pointed out some Greek over a shoemaker's shop. "What," said Porson, "do you know Greek?" "Yes," said Bannister, "I know it *by sight*."

## 37. CAMBRIDGE WALKS.

In Le Keux's Memorials of Cambridge, No. 5, p. 65, we find the following :

"The walks, on the other side of the river, form nearly a rectangle, and are said to be about the third of a mile in circumference. The southern and western sides are bordered by rows of lofty lime-trees. The walk along the northern side is

completely covered from the sun by a row of exceedingly noble chesnut-trees, which have, of late years, suffered much from age and rough weather. The western gateway of the New Court leads, over an elegant stone bridge with cycloidal arches, the work of the well-known James Essex, along an avenue of lime-trees, whose branches, at a great elevation, intersect, and form, as it were, an arched Gothic roof. At the west end of this avenue is a gateway of light open iron-work, and in the distance is seen the steeple of the pleasant little village of Coton. It was the prospect along this walk, that the witty critic, Porson, compared to a college fellowship, which, he said, was a long dreary road, with a church in the distance."

### 38. PORSON AND BROCKLESBY.

In a party, of which Porson was a member, there was also a Physician, Dr. Brocklesby, a descendant of the eminent man who attended Dr. Johnson in his last illness. In addressing Dr Brocklesby, Porson always called him Dr. Rock, "Yes, Dr Rock,"—"No, Dr Rock," &c., a name rendered almost infamous by Hogarth in his *March of the Guards*. At length Dr Brocklesby became offended, and said "Mr Porson, my name is not Rock, it is Brock-les-by," (*pronouncing the syllables distinctly*). "Well," said Porson, "if Brock-less-b is not Rock, I know nothing of Algebra."

b 119

### 39. Porson's fondness for writing.

Heber told Dyce that Porson was so fond of writing that he offered to write the labels on Heber's vellum-bound books. Heber could not think of allowing him, but requested him to write some of his own notes on the margin of a copy of *Athæ-næus* or some other Greek Classic, and Porson did so.

## 40. MAJOR REVELL.

Major Revell was very intimate with Porson, who used frequently to dine with him. One of his daughters, when very young, had learnt by heart Cowley's translation of an ode of Anacreon, and repeated it one day to Porson when dining there. Porson was much surprised, and varied the words, but without altering the sense, to see if she understood it. He then took her on his knee, and repeated to her the same ode in the original Greek, and in the German, French, and Italian, translations.

41. *The Cyder-cellar.*

Porson used to go to the Cyder-cellar : he said that a stranger, whom he met there, used to discourse most learnedly about the *οἶνος κριθένος*, or whiskey of the ancients, as this stranger asserted it to be ; he surprised Porson with the accuracy, variety, and extent of his information. He was never found out, notwithstanding all Porson's enquiries. A fortnight afterwards Porson was asked about the existence of the Devil : "Sir," said he, "I doubted his existence till I saw him seated in that chair a fortnight ago."

## 42. SHAEN.

Mr. Shaen, a barrister, said that Porson was once so drunk when returning to his chambers in the Temple, that he could not find the right stair-case, and called a friend, who had been with him, to assist him.

## 43. COGAN.

The following anecdote is from Mr. Cogan. Porson called on a friend, who was reading Thucydides, and wished to consult him on the meaning of a word. Porson, hearing the word, repeated the passage. His friend asked how he knew it was that passage. "Because," said P., "the word occurs only twice in Thucydides, once on the right hand, and once on the left. I observed on *which* side you looked, and therefore knew the passage to which you referred."

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## 44. DICK.

Mr W. F. Dick said that he was contemporary with Porson, and remembered his sparring-matches with Murphit. Porson said that Murphit would never be in want of a cork-screw, for he need only swallow a ten-penny nail, which would become one by passing through the sinuosities of his body, "which further," added the Professor, "would give to any particle of air, which he might imbibe, the melody of a French horn!"

45. *Gibbon's history.*

Porson said of Gibbon's History that it would be an excellent work if it were translated into English. Gibbon heard this repeated, with good nature, and spoke of Porson with respect.

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## 46. WAKEFIELD.

Some one mentioned to Porson Wakefield's ability to repeat

Homer, &c. by heart : Porson replied that he would undertake to get the Morning Chronicle in a week.

47. COGAN.

Mr Cogan stated that Porson said Bp Pearson would have been a much greater man than Bentley, or at least as great, if he had not muddled his head with Theology.

48. MOORE.

Mr Moore, a surgeon, and prisoner in the Queen's Bench, (1837) said that he often met Porson at the Cyder-cellar in Maiden Lane, and on the day of his marriage, stayed with him there from 10 in the evening till 8 the next morning !

49. PORSON DRUNK.

The author of an article in the Public Ledger (Sep. 29. 1808,) says that he frequently met him and heard him, when in a state of inebriety, in which few men of ordinary talents could utter a word, with dignified deportment, and sonorous utterance, pour forth a hundred lines of Homer together, apparently for no other purpose than to excite the wonder of his audience at what most of them could not understand.

50. *Maltby.*

Mr Maltby, the librarian of the London Institution, first became acquainted with Porson in 1784, and remembered him as a handsome man when he was young. Latterly, his nose was disfigured by what Porson called an efflorescence, but

which Maltby considered to have been occasioned by a tumble in the streets after the performance of some of his Bacchanalian freaks.

#### 51. *Porson's religious opinions.*

On religious opinions Porson was very close, disclosing nothing essential: he could not fairly be classed among unbelievers, and he could hardly be regarded as a strict member of the Established Church, yet on the other hand he could not be called a dissenter. For a year and a half he examined closely and painfully into the propriety of signing the articles, and then conscientiously decided against subscription and lost his Fellowship. It was on this occasion that he came to London and lived 6 weeks on a guinea.

#### 52. *Porson in debt.*

Porson was once arrested for debt, and was ever afterwards most careful and cautious to avoid a like calamity. In his latter days he became very fond of money, and loved to exhibit 20 or 30 guineas.

#### 53. *Agasias*

"Sicuti autem cæteri plerique GRÆCI morem ATHENIENSIIUM in re militari sequebantur, ita tamen sigillatim LACEDÆMONII reliquis rei militaris gloriam fere reddebant ambiguum. Hi vero, quod NIC. CRAGIUS *de Rep. LAC.* 3, 12. conjicit, non facile ante annum ætatis tricesimum militabant. Apud ÆLIANUM, vi, 3, narratio est de ISADA quodam, quem quum lex nondum vocaret ad pugnam, quod tamen e gymnasio progressus se strenuum præstitisset, corona quidem donatus est; verum

quia ætate non postulante, nec armis in patria usitatis, rem gessisset, mulctam solvit. Posteaquam enim juvenes ex ephebis excesserant, memorante ipso XENOPHONTE *de Rep. Lac.* 538, 542, cæteri quidem GRÆCI eos statim in militiam proficisci jubebant; verum LYCURGUS apud SPARTANOS introduxerat, ut hujus ætatis homines antea pulcherrimum ducerent, venari. Fecit etiam illis, qui pubertatis annos excessissent, comæ alendæ copiam; quod eos hoc pacto grandiores, ac magis ingenuos, terribilioresque, conspici arbitrantur. Primum quidem ΕΡΗΟΡΙ annos ante denuntiabant, quibus in militiam tum equitibus, tum peditibus gravis armaturæ, itemque opificibus, eundum esset. Quibus instructis, in sex cohortes equitatum ac gravem armaturam distribuit. Cohortes vero rursus pro varia militum ætate distinxit. In aliis enim erant ὀπλῆται τὰ δέκα ἀφ' ἥβης, *militēs gravis armaturæ, qui ab annis decem jam ex ephebis excesserant*; in aliis, οἱ τὰ πεντεκαίδεκα ἀφ' ἥβης, *qui annis quindecim pubertatem excessissent*, (XENOPH. *Hist. Gr.* 413.) Imo legimus, (467.) imminente reipublicæ periculo, militasse apud LACEDÆMONIOS etiam τοὺς τὰ πέντε καὶ τριάκοντα ἀφ' ἥβης, item τοὺς τετταράκοντα ἀφ' ἥβης, i. e. *qui annos XXXV, item qui XXXX annos a pubertate exegerant*. Quum vero AGESILAUS, rex LACEDÆMONIORUM, legatur etiam ΕΡΗΣΙΟΣ aliquando instruxisse re militari, (390) facile est ad credendum, hos quoque in deligendis militibus certæ ætatis roborisque rationem fortasse similem habuisse."

J. C. FRONMULLER's *Dissertatio Inauguralis de Ætate et Statura Militari Veterum ad illust. Epist. ad EPHES.* 4, 13. ALTORFII, 1731. 4to, p. 9.

#### 54. Porson's love of drink.

He was fond of porter and once drank 6 pots for breakfast. He was not an habitual drinker of spirits, but in default of other liquids, he has been known to swallow embrocations and eye-water without any bad result.

## 55. HIS MEMORY.

Porson was too parsimonious of praise: hence he was often unjust: he would not allow that there was any difference between himself and others as to original capacity, for that the sole difference lay in the cultivation of that capacity. He said that he could never recollect a thing without trying to recollect it, and nothing at all without at least three careful perusals.

## 56. LIFE OF GENERAL MINA.

He was the son of an honest farmer of Idozin, in the province of Navarre, and until his 26th year devoted himself to the labours of husbandry. His patriotism was first excited by "the treacherous invasion of Spain by Napoleon in 1808; and, anxious to serve his country, he abandoned his native village in 1809, and enlisted as a private soldier. By his bravery and good conduct in irregular skirmishing, he soon rose to the situation of commander-in-chief of the Guerilla of Navarre. His services were so agreeable to the Regency, which governed the kingdom during the captivity of Ferdinand, that they heaped military honours upon him, the bare enumeration of which occupies two pages of the work. This patronage was not bestowed in vain. Mina became the chief actor in every warlike effort which the Spanish army made, while we acted as their auxiliaries: and, though his troops were ill-provided with necessary equipments—though military stores could not be obtained, except by *breve manu* captures from the enemy, and even defection was sown in his camp, he still maintained his ground; and to his effective assistance in distracting the forces of the French, our successes at Vittoria and Pampeluna may be greatly attributed. He kept his authority and command till the return of Ferdinand, when despotism and fanaticism having arrayed themselves against Constitutional

liberty, he was obliged to exile himself in France. This finished his "Campaign of Independence." After spending six years under Buonaparte and the Bourbons, he arrived in Spain, and was almost immediately afterwards invested with a command in chief. The exertions in the "Campaign of Liberty" did not sully the laurels which he had already gained. He was ever to be found firm at his post—the same brave patriot—the same intrepid soldier who rose superior to the obstacles which were thrown in his path, and to the evil machinations of his enemies. But the irruption of the French—coming like a torrent from the Pyrenees to destroy every vestige of national independence—completely paralyzed the hand of Mina. Stretched on the sick-bed—without troops—without resources; surrounded by spies and traitors, he languished for some time in Spain, vainly expecting a re-action in the minds of his degraded countrymen.

"At last," says he, (p. 101.) "when the Constitutional Government was dissolved, with the Cortes; the King restored to absolute power; and when the enemy's army, reinforced by the 5th Corps, under the command of Marshal Lauriston, was threatening a formidable siege to the only places in Cataluna which continued to defend themselves, *Barcelona, Tarragona, and Hostalrich*; what was to be done? To prolong the defence of them was next to impossible; hope there was none; and to bury ourselves in their ruins was absolutely useless. These strong and afflicting motives obliged me to conclude with Marshal Moncey, for the occupation of those three places, the treaty of the 1st of November, 1823."

Mina now appears before us as the victim of a cruel and despicable tyrant,—as one of the noblest spirits whom the convulsions of Spain called into a new existence. Many of his companions in arms, whose bosoms throbbed with emotions as high and as pure, now sleep in a lowly and unhonoured grave; yet their memory will still be cherished by those who can

sympathise with patriotism, in whatever station of life it may be educed. Revolution does not merely chafe the surface of society into billows; it descends into its deep and hidden recesses. Every link in the national chain, from the monarch to the serf, experiences its influence: and that talent and enterprise which yawned over the plough, the loom, or the anvil, are now strangely impelled into a more extended sphere. The great prizes in the lottery of life are now brought within the compass of every one;—rank is stripped of its homage and respect—and the naked strength of individual character triumphs over the artificial restraints which law and custom impose. It is true, that, when the great barriers of the government are gained, the collision of unrestrained passion—of unbridled ambition, and unrectified enthusiasm deluge the country with the blood of civil strife; but after the scum has boiled over, and the pecculent humours are extracted, enough of the pure spirit remains, to infuse additional strength and energy into the national character. If governments were never chastened by revolution, much of the latent power of the country would be lost; and the great germs of regeneration, which lie concealed in the very depths of society, would become corrupt and rotten. During the struggles in France, what an array of talent was mustered by classes of society, whose natural rights previously were trod and trampled upon? Who could have thought that men, whose fathers were treated like brutes, and goaded to their toils by the whip, could, all at once, assume that intensity of feeling, and those high and lofty purposes; which befit those who are nurtured in the lap of a free and civilized community? Had France not been rocked to her lowest foundation, we should not have heard of the Marats, the Dantons, and the Dumouriers, who successively guided the public pulse; and, by a parity of principle, La Fayette, Mirabeau, Condorcet, and others of as high birth, who rallied round the republican standard, would, in other circumstances, have allowed the vessel of the state to be fixed in the fetid bed of corruption. In England, the events which preceded the dynasty

of Cromwell, called forth new and unusual characters into the arena of active existence, men, in the most retired walks of life, felt the strong impulse of the times ; and they, who dreamt only of passing their days in the drowsy round of animal existence, suddenly became the arbiters of their country's fate. In truth, revolution, (however many the evils and disasters in its train) comes as a reasonable relief to states which have grown old in abuses, and have fallen into " the sear and yellow leaf ; " and while it brings the antipodes of society together, it reads a memorable and impressive lesson to that ambition which exalts itself on the necks of a thrall'd and enslaved population.

But however clear these principles may seem to the candid enquirer—nay, to all who are interested in the growth of enlightened freedom, they are necessarily the objects of execration by legitimate governments. When the tempest of revolution has burst forth, and is fast overwhelming every regal attribute, monarchs think it wise to stoop to its fury, and to hold out the olive-branch of peace and concession to their infuriated subjects. But when the atmosphere has lost its fiery hues, and when the flushing verdure of tranquillity begins to re-appear, then do they shrink back from their promises, and strive, by every effort, to efface the memory of the recent convulsions. When Ferdinand was throned anew in Spain, the first act of his reign was to revive those dark and terrific factions, which, under the pretext of restoring his government, had spread themselves over the country ; and to mark out to his royal solicitude those characters who had been outlawed by the letter of the Constitution. France has followed this example. The Chamber of Peers are now occupied with Villele's proposition for remunerating the noblesse who flocked to this country during the revolution.

One naturally asks, why *they* alone, if the principle must be acted upon, should be singled out among the many victims of

the riot and intoxication of the people. These emigrants—cemented to the ancient *regime* by the most powerful ties—were the first to abandon the sinking fortunes of their master. They did not rally round his banner, even when the continental potentates had leagued for his liberation—they made no diversions in the country, or in foreign parts, except the rash and ill-concerted movements in La Vendée ;—they consulted their personal safety by flight, at the expense of their honour ; and were content to receive the pensions of England, while the blood of the infatuated Louis stained the guillotine. Admitting that they were sufferers by the revolution, the folly of this measure is more apparent. All ranks and classes of people in France drunk as bitter (if not a bitterer) cup of misery. The hopes of the humble cottar, and of the wealthy husbandman—the coffers and speculations of the merchant—the schemes of the philosophers—the tenderest relations of domestic life—all sunk under the tide of blood which oozed from the pores of the state. Indemnify the widow for the loss of her husband—the orphans for the murder of their parents—give bread to the poor—and comfort to the wretched—then may the claims of the noblesse be entitled to a hearing. But to fatten up the remnants of this profligate and idiot race, and to turn a deaf ear to the complaints of the lower classes, is to tear open those wide wounds which the course of events has tried to heal ; and to recal those odious distinctions, which the Revolution levelled to the dust. Let France be upon her guard : a few more such measures will infallibly excite discontent and dissatisfaction ; and, the fire once re-lit, the prophecy of Mirabeau will be realized—that a Bourbon prince is ever destined to sleep on a volcano.

[How wonderfully has this prophecy been realized ! Ed. 1849.]

## 57. BRUTUS.

Porson was once asked : “An Brutus benefecit an malefecit Cæsarem occidendo ?” He replied “Nec benefecit, nec malefecit, sed interfecit.”

## 58.

Porson described his tour in these lines :

“ I went to Antwerp and got drunk  
With that most learned Professor Brunck :  
I went to Wortz and got still drunker  
With that more learned Professor Ruhnker.”

59. *Two Short Trifles in Verse, by Professor Porson.*

## 1.

My *first*, from the thief though your house it defends,  
Like a slave, or a cheat, you abuse or despise ;  
My *second*, though brief, yet alas ! comprehends  
All the good, all the great, all the learn'd, all the wise ;  
Of my *third* I have little or nothing to say,  
Except that it marks the departure of day.

[CUR-FEW.]

## 2.

My *first* is the lot, that is destin'd by fate  
For my *second* to meet with in every state ;  
My *third* is by many philosophers reckon'd  
To bring very often my *first* to my *second*.

[WO-MAN.]

## 60. MALTBY—TRAVIS.

Porson once attended a sale at which were put up some duplicates belonging to Mr Maltby, who was present. Among the rest was the book entitled “Letters to Travis.” Porson found out that they were Maltby’s, and said to him “So you are turning me out?” “Oh, no! Mr Professor, it is only a duplicate, I have a better copy for my own use.”—“Well,” said P., “I got but £30 for my labors, but I have the con-

solution of thinking that my publisher *lost* money by the speculation.

#### 61. ST EDMUND'S OAK.

There is a large oak-tree in Norfolk called "St Edmund's oak," to which it is said the Danes tied Edmund king of the East-Angles, when they shot him to death with arrows.\*

#### 62. SHERIDAN.

Sheridan was once talking to a friend about the Prince Regent, who took great credit to himself for various public occurrences, as if they had been directed by his political skill, or foreseen by his political sagacity;—"but," said Sheridan, "what his Royal Highness more particularly prides himself in, is the late excellent harvest."

#### 63. SHERIDAN.

Sheridan, a few years before his death, paid a visit to an old sportsman in the sister-kingdom, at the commencement of the shooting season, and, in order to avoid the imputation of being a downright ignoramus, he was under the necessity of taking a gun, and at the dawn of day setting forth in pursuit of game. Unwilling to expose his want of skill, he took an opposite course to that of his friend, and was accompanied by a gamekeeper, provided with a bag to receive the birds, which

\* This tree has since perished; and when it was cut up, an arrow-head was found deeply imbedded in its trunk, about six feet from the ground; forming a remarkable proof of the truth of the legend.

might fall victims to his attacks, and a pair of excellent pointers. The gamekeeper was a true Pat and possessed all those arts of *blarney*, which are known to belong to his countrymen; and thinking it imperative on him to be particularly attentive to his Master's friend, he lost no opportunity of praising his prowess. The first covey (and the birds were abundant) rose within a few yards of the statesman's nose, but the noise they made, was so unexpected, that he waited till they were out of harm's way before he fired. Pat, who was on the look-out, expressed his surprise and immediately observed:—"Faith, sir, I see you know what a gun is: it's well you wasn't nearer, or them chaps would be sorry you ever came into the country." Sheridan reloaded and went on, but his second shot was not more successful. "Oh," cried Pat, "what an escape! I'll be bound you rumbled some of their feathers!" The gun was loaded again, and on went our Senator; but the third shot was as little effective as the two former. 'Hah,' exclaimed Pat, although astonished at so palpable a miss, 'I'll lay a thirteen you don't come near us to-day again. Master was too near you to be pleasant.' So he went on, shot after shot, and always had something to say to console poor Sheridan, who was not a little amused at his ingenuity. At last, on their return home, without a bird in the bag, Sheridan perceived a covey quietly feeding on the other side of a hedge, and unwilling to give them a chance of flight, he resolved to have a slap at them on the ground. He did so, but, to his mortification, they all flew away untouched. Pat, whose excuses were now almost exhausted, still had something to say, and he exclaimed joyfully, looking at Sheridan very significantly, "By Jasus! you made them lave that, any way!" and with this compliment to his sportsmanlike qualities, Sheridan closed his morning's amusement, laughing heartily at his companion, and rewarding him with half-a-crown for his patience and encouragement.

## 64. FIELDING.

Fielding, hearing that a friend of his was dejected because he was so deeply in debt, said to his informant "Is that all? How happy I should be, if I could only get £500 deeper in debt than I am already."

## 65. FATHER O'LEARY.

A certain Dean of Chester, dining in company with the celebrated Father O'Leary, said to him, when they were getting merry over their wine, "Mr. O'Leary, how can a man of your good sense believe in that damnable doctrine of a half way house to Heaven?"—"Mr Dane," replied O'Leary, "'twould be lucky for you to believe it also, for, between ourselves, a man might go farther and fare worse!"

## 66. VERSES WRITTEN IN AN INN AT CALAIS.

Eure veni ; tua jamdudum expectata morantur  
 Flamina ; te poscit votis precibusque viator  
 Impatiens, dum longa moræ fastidia sentit.  
 Interea ad curvas descendens sæpius oras  
 Prospicit in patriam atque avidis exhaurit ocellis,  
 Nec dulci faciem de littore demovet unquam.  
 Illic Dubrenses ad cælum ascendere colles  
 Aspicit immensasque arces, grandesque ruinas,  
 Et late ingentes scopulorum albescere tractus,  
 Extenditque manus ripæ ulterioris amore.  
 Nequicquam videt hæc, nec fas attingere visa ;  
 Obstat hyems inimica et vis contraria venti.

66. EXTRACT FROM A LETTER BY SIR UVEDALE PRICE TO  
E. H. BARKER, MARCH 24, 1827.

Among my<sup>s</sup> seniors mentioned in the *Reminiscences*, I found too my Uncle the Bishop of Durham, of whom Mr. Butler speaks with great regard. There is a long list of my contemporaries of the next generation: and, as Mr Butler has awakened my reminiscences, I shall indulge myself in mentioning one or two of them. Sheridan I saw a good deal of in the earlier part of his life soon after his marriage with his first wife Miss Linley; the beauty of whose countenance and voice no one who ever heard or saw her could ever forget: "*Rara quidem facie, sed rarior arte canendi.*" They both of them passed some time with me here at Foxley: he has very little pleasure in music, none in scenery: for if this house had been placed in the midst of Hounslow Heath, he could not have taken less notice of all that surrounded it. I have mentioned this circumstance, as Mr. Butler doubts, to say the least, whether Sheridan's genius was as decidedly poetical as he himself conceived it to be. The greatest poets were the greatest observers, admirers and painters of scenery, in its most extended sense and various characters: and a cold indifference to its charms seems to imply a deficiency in one very engaging quality of a poet. I saw very little of Sheridan—and I may add, luckily—during the last part of his life.

But among the characters of the second generation so ably drawn by Mr. Butler, to me much the most interesting is that of Charles Fox. Our friendship and intimacy, which began at Eton, continued without interruption through life. While Etonians, we acted together in the plays given at Holland House, which, from the high character and connections of its owner, from the premature talents of C. Fox, two years younger than myself, and from the peculiarly lovely countenance and sweet-toned voice of Lady Sarah Lenox, our Jane Shore (whom, as Gloucester, I could hardly bring myself to speak to as harshly as my character required) these plays had

at the time great celebrity. We were at Oxford together, were almost constantly together at Florence, where we studied Italian, under the same master at the same time.

From Rome we travelled together along the eastern coast to Venice, and thence to Turin, where we met by appointment our excellent friend and school-fellow, Lord Fitzwilliam, who is mentioned by Mr Butler in a few words, but most impressively, as spoken of him by Fox. All this, I am aware, can have little interest for you: but having the excuse of Mr Butler's reminiscences, I have indulged myself in putting down mine, as they recal a period of great and unmixed delight. I then witnessed dayly and hourly that characteristic good nature, that warm and unalterable attachment to his friends of which Mr B. speaks in so impressive a manner: and likewise witnessed on more than one occasion, what was no less characteristic, his abhorrence of any thing like tyranny, oppression, or cruelty. Having got so far on my journey, I shall e'en proceed with it: from Turin we all three set out for Geneva, but went out of our direct road to that most singular and striking place, the Grande Chartreuse, so finely described in Gray's Alcaic Ode. From Geneva Fox and I went to Voltaire at Ferny, having obtained a permission then seldom granted. It is an event in one's life to have seen and heard that extraordinary man: he was old and infirm, and, in answer to Fox's note and request, said that the name of Fox was sufficient, and that he could not refuse seeing us, "*mais que nous venions pour l'exterrer.*" He conversed in a lively manner walking with us to and fro in a sort of alley; and at parting gave us a list of some of his works, adding "*Ce sont des livres de quoi il faut se munir,*" they were such as would fortify our young minds against religious prejudices. Fox quitted us at Geneva, went to England, and commenced his political career. I went with Fitzwilliam through the finest parts of Switzerland, and then down the Rhine to Spa, and met him again at Paris: and there ends my foreign journal and high time it should."

Mr Pickering, of Chancery Lane, bought this and other original letters of Sir U. P., Aug. 19, 1839.

## 67. RIDDLES BY PROFESSOR PORSON.

1. The child of a peasant, Rose thought it no shame  
     To toil at my first all the day :  
 Then her father grew rich and a farmer became,  
     When my first to my second gave way.  
 Then she married a merchant, who brought her to town :  
     To this elegant station preferred,  
 Of my first and my second quite weary she's grown,  
     And gives all her time to my third.

[SPIN-NET.

2. My first, 'tis said, in ghosts abounds,  
     And, wheresoe'er she walks her rounds,  
 My second never fails to go,  
     Yet oft attends her mortal foe.  
 If with my third you quench your thirst,  
     You sink for ever in my first.

[NIGHT-SHADE.

3. My first is the nymph I adore,  
     The sum of her charms is my second,  
     I was going to call it my third ;  
 But I counted a million and more,  
     Till I found they could never be reckon'd ;  
     So I quickly rejected the word.

[THOU.

## 68. THE CAMBRIDGE COMMENCEMENT.

A Cambridge Commencement's the time  
 When gentlemen come for degrees ;  
 And with wild-looking cousins and wives  
 Through a smart mob of Pensioners squeeze.

The Music, that plays in the church,  
Attracts them, though boiling the weather ;  
Like the good folks by Orpheus of old,  
Who sat list'ning and steaming together.

Dr Randal stuck up in the front,  
(With the gay London fiddlers behind)  
Like a fine paper-punch, pulled by strings,  
Throws his arms and his legs to the wind.

The pretty town-misses have each  
Some Sizar their humble beholder,  
While the nymphs of the Lodge think there's nought  
Like a bit of gold lace on the shoulder.

O'er the poor country curate that 's near,  
How their eyes (in fine language called 'killers')  
They carelessly glance, till they rest  
On the silk gown and long nose of V——.

But now to the Senate in troops  
They perspiring and panting repair,  
Where the good lady President sits,  
Like a lobster that's boil'd, in a chair,

And there the gruff father of physic,  
And the dark little father of law,  
Stretch their hands o'er their children, and there,  
Divinity's Lion his paw.

With kisses, with rings, and with hugs,  
The old gentlemen treat one another,  
Till by magic of hugs they become  
From a son in a moment a brother.

Miss, who sits in the gallery above,  
Declares she does not see the fun,

Nor how kisses and hugs make a brother,  
Though she knows they have oft made a son.

Fair Nymphs! I'll unriddle the jest,  
The kisses and hugs are by proxy:  
The Professors are but go-betweens,  
'Tis old Alma Mater's the doxy!

BY DR MANSSELL.

### 89. NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS.

1. A married woman, of the Shawanee Indians, made this beautiful reply to a man whom she met in the woods, and who implored her to love and look upon him: 'Oulamen, my husband,' said she, 'who is for ever before my eyes, hinders me from seeing you.'

2. "Thus is the race of red men rapidly passing away before the genius of civilization. A few generations more, and they will probably have disappeared for ever from the face of the earth. At present the number of savages who swarm in the streets of Philadelphia, on their return from the seat of government, are regarded by the citizens as wonders; they are paraded as a show; and at the theatres and all other places of public resort, they are daily followed by thousands on thousands of idle gazers, on whom these natural philosophers throw looks of the most supreme scorn and contempt. It is a melancholy spectacle to see these noble specimens of our nature, once the lords of this great country, reduced to be the mere objects of wonder and admiration to the populace of crowded cities, formerly, as Keocuck said yesterday, 'the beautiful hunting-grounds, the clear fishing streams, the dark and glorious forests of our fathers. Alas! what has the red man done that the house of the pale faces should have taken the places of his

wigwam? What has the red man done that the great Spirit should have driven him forth from his happy land? But the great Spirit is good. The red man shall live in another and a better country. There the pale faces will not rob him of his earth and water,—his children of their hunting-places—I have done!" And Keocuck, the principal chief of the tribes, majestically folded his red blanket, like the Roman *toga*, around him, and went his way."

3. The following is extracted from a speech before the Governor and Assembly of Pennsylvania, by the chief of the Menomonies. It has all the figurative energy of Indian eloquence: — "Brothers, we see your Council-house; it is large and beautiful; but the council-house of the red man is much larger,—the earth is the floor, the clear sky is the roof,—a blazing fire is the chair of the chief Orators,—and the green grass the seats of our Chiefs. You speak by papers, and record your words in books; but we speak from our hearts, and memory records our words in the hearts of our people."

4. When General Lincoln went to make peace with the Creek Indians, one of the Chiefs asked him to sit down on a log. He was then desired to move, and, in a few minutes, to move farther. This request was repeated till the General got to the end of the log. The Indian then said "Move farther," to which the General replied, "I can move no farther." "Just so it is with us," said the chief, "you have moved us back to the water and then ask us to move farther."

5. When a chief of the Huron tribe, who had visited this country, was asked by Mr De Roos, at Quebec, what had struck him most of all that he had seen in England, he replied without hesitation, that it was the monument erected in St Paul's to the memory of General Brock. It seemed to have impressed him with a high idea of the considerate beneficence of his great Father, the King of England, that he not only

remembered the exploits and death of his white child, who had fallen beyond the big salt lake, but he had even deigned to record on the marble sepulchre the errors of the poor Indian, weeping over his chief untimely slain."

70. LETTER OF PETER JONES, THE INDIAN PREACHER.

My dear Brother,

London, England.

I take up my pen for the purpose of sending you a little *paper talk* that you may know how I am, and what I have seen in this land of light. I am happy to inform you that my health is much improved since I wrote to you last, for which I desire to thank our heavenly Father, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift. The British and Foreign Bible Society have printed a thousand copies of the translation of the Gospel of St John into the Chippeway language, which will be forwarded to Canada early in the Spring. I have made arrangements with this society to proceed on in translating the Gospel of St Luke, the Acts, and some of the Epistles into the Chippeway. I have thought you would be glad to hear my remarks, as an Indian traveller, on the customs and manners of the English people, and therefore send you the following brief remarks made from actual observation :—The English in general are a noble, generous-minded people—free to act, and free to think—they very much pride themselves in their civil and religious privileges, in their learning, generosity, manufactures, and commerce, and they think that no other nation is equal with them in respect to these things. I have found them very open and friendly, always ready to relieve the wants of the poor and needy when properly brought before them. No nation, I think, can be more fond of novelties or new things than the English are ; they will gaze and look upon a foreigner as if he had just dropped down from the moon, and I have often been amused

in seeing what a number of people a *monkey riding upon a dog* will collect in the streets of London, where such things may be seen almost every day. When my Indian name (Kakke-waquonaby) is announced to attend any public meeting, so great is their curiosity that the place is always sure to be filled, and it would be the same if notice was given that a man with his toes in his mouth would address a congregation in such a place and on such a day; the place without fail would be filled with English hearers. They are truly industrious, and in general very honest and upright in their dealings. Their close attention to business, I think, rather carries them too much to a worldly-mindedness, and hence many forget to think about their souls and their God, and are entirely swallowed up in the cares of the world—their motto seems to be, ‘Money, money, get money—get rich and be a gentleman.’ With this sentiment they all fly about in every direction like a swarm of bees in search of that treasure which lies so near their hearts. This remark refers more particularly to the men of the world, and of such there are not a few. The English are very fond of good living, and many, who live on roasted beef, plumb pudding, and turtle soup, get very fat and round as a toad. Roasted beef and plumb pudding are as sweet to an Englishman as bear’s meat and a beaver’s tail to an old Indian. They eat 4 times a day—breakfast at 8 or 9 in the morning, which consists of coffee or tea, with bread and butter, and sometimes a little fried bacon, fish, or eggs—dinner about 2 p. m., when every thing that is good and strong is spread before the eater, and winds up with fruit, nuts, and a few glasses of wine—tea at six in the evening, with bread and butter, and sometimes a little sweet cakes—supper at about 9 or 10, when the leavings of the dinner again make their appearance, and upon which John Bull makes a sound hearty meal, to go to bed upon at midnight. The fashion in dress varies and changes so often that I am unable to describe it—I will only say that the ladies of fashion wear very curious bonnets, which look something like a

farmers's scoop shovel, and when they walk in the tip-toe style, they put me in mind of the little snipes that run along the shores of the lakes in Canada. They also wear sleeves as big as bushel-bags, which make them appear as if they had three bodies with one head. Yet, with all their big bonnets and sleeves, the English ladies, I think, are the best of women.

#### 71. TURKEY NO BITE.

The fact which I am now about to relate happened in the island of Nevis in the year 1824, and was told to me by a lieutenant in the navy, who had voyaged to the West Indies.

A sailor, seeing a fine Turkey cock, the property of a negro-woman, who lived near the place where the sailors were in the habit of landing, put a bait on his fishing hook and threw it out before the bird, which immediately swallowed it. The sailor, turning round, began to run towards the boat, as if afraid, and the turkey by compulsion followed, stretching out his neck, and flapping his wings. The old woman, looking out of her window, saw the sailor running away, and the turkey running after him : upon which, sallying forth from the door, she called out to the sailor " Stop, buckra, stop ; turkey no bite, turkey no bite ! " It is needless to add that the sailor ran into his boat with the turkey after him, and began to pull away to the ship.

#### 73. LENORA.

Sept. 10, 1827.—The conversation was about the German poetry and German poets. A stranger, who has lately appeared in the Coffee-Room, gave me the following translation of Burger's Lenora, or, as it used to be called, Leonora.

## 1.

Lenora rose with dawning red,  
From dreams of boding fear :  
“ My William, art thou false or dead ?  
O when wilt thou appear ? ”  
To Prague’s dread fight he marched afar,  
With royal Frederic’s banner’d war ;  
And still no line to tell  
If he were safe and well.

## 2.

The empress-queen and the stern king,  
Weary of conflict past,  
Their stubborn bosoms softening,  
Agreed in peace at last.  
And either host, with song and shout,  
And beating drum and merry rout,  
And garlands green and gay,  
Began their homeward way.

## 3.

And then came trooping old and young,  
Came trooping near and far,  
By path and stile, to meet the train,  
Returning from the war.  
“ Now God be praised ! ” cried wife and child,  
And many a bride her welcome smiled.  
But, ah ! for sad Lenore  
No kiss, no greeting more !

## 4.

She asked and asked of every name  
Throughout the long array ;  
But none of all the host that came  
Could aught of William say.  
And when the train was gone and past,  
Down on the earth her form she cast,  
And tore her raven hair,  
With looks of wild despair.

## 5.

Quick flew her mother to her side,  
 And pressed her to her heart,  
 "God pity thee, my child," she cried,  
 "Speak, love; thy grief impart."—  
 "Lost, mother, lost! O never more!  
 "Now perish, world and all thy store!  
     God has no pity—none,  
     A wretch, a wretch undone!"—

## 6.

"Help, Lord; look on us, Lord, in grace!  
 To prayer, dear child, to prayer:  
 Righteous and good are all his ways,  
 His mercy loves to spare."—  
 "Mother, thine idle talk let be!  
 How is he just and good to me?  
     Did all my praying save?  
     Now have I naught to crave!"

## 7.

"Help, Lord! The Father's tender care  
     His happy children know;  
 The blessed Sacrament shall bear  
     A balm to all thy woe."—  
 "Mother, the fire that burnis my breast,  
 No sacrament can charm to rest;  
     No sacrament can give  
     The buried dead to live."—

## 8.

"But hearken, child! Suppose the youth,  
     In far Hungarian land,  
 Forgetful of his plight and truth,  
     Has linked another band?  
 E'en let him rove so light of love;  
 Small gain the faithless deed shall prove.  
     Woe to the perjured heart,  
     When soul and body part!"—

## 9.

"Lost, mother, lost ! gone, mother, gone !

Ah me, ah me forlorn !

Death, death shall prove my gain alone ;

Oh had I ne'er been born !

Out, out for ever more, my light,

Quenched in despair and deepest night !

God has no mercy, none :

O wretch, O wretch undone !"—

## 10.

"Help, Lord ! forbear thy judgments dread

On thy poor daughter, Lord.

She knows not what her rash lips said :

Forgive the sinful word.

Child, child, thine earthly griefs resign,

And think of God and bliss divine.

There shall thy blest soul prove

A heavenly bridegroom's love."—

## 11.

"And what is Hell, and what is Bliss ?

Speak, mother ; mother, tell !

'Tis Heaven and Bliss where William is,

And all without him Hell.

Out, out, for evermore, my light,

Quenched in despair and deepest night.

No bliss, no bliss for me,

In earth or heaven but he !"

## 12.

Thus desperate still with boiling blood

She raved, and burning brain.

Bold in her rebel grief she stood,

God's counsel to arraign.

And wrung her hands and beat her breast,

Till sank the sun beneath the West,

And golden stars shone high

Along the vaulted sky.

## 13.

And hark ! without, a sudden sound  
Of trampling hoofs there rung,  
And at the entry-steps to ground  
A rider clattering sprung.  
And, hark, the knocker echoes low  
With *tap, tap, tap*, so soft and slow.  
Then through the door was heard  
Distinct each hurried word.

## 14.

"What ! ho, child, ho ! the door undo !  
Dost wake, my girl, or sleep ?  
And bear'st thou still a bosom true,  
And dost thou laugh or weep ?"—  
"Thou, William, thou, at night so late ?  
Oh, I have borne a weary weight ;  
Have watched with many a tear —  
Whence com'st thou riding here ?"

## 15.

"Late set I forth, at midnight dead  
I and my fellows ride :  
From far Bohemia have I sped  
To bear thee home a bride."—  
"Oh, haste within, my William, haste,  
Chill through the hawthorn sighs the blast.  
O haste and fold thee warm  
Within this loving arm."—

## 16.

"And let it sigh, girl, let it sigh !  
Sigh on through hawthorn drear ;  
The keen spur clanks ; the steed paws high ;  
I dare not linger here.  
Knot tight thy gown, spring bold and free  
On the swift steed, and forth with me  
To bridal bed this day,  
A hundred miles away !"

## 17.

"A hundred miles to bridal bed,  
Ere yet this day be done !  
Hark, hark, the bell so deep and dread !  
Eleven already gone.  
The moon shines clear ; see yonder see !  
Swift ride the dead, and swift ride we.  
I wager yet this day  
Thou com'st to bride-bed gay."—

## 18.

"But where thy bridal chamber, say,  
And bridal-bed so rare ?"—  
"Cold, narrow, still far, far away,  
Six planks, two planklets bare."  
"Hast room for me ?"—"For me and thee :  
Come, knot thy gown ; spring bold and free.  
The guests expect the bride :  
The chamber opens wide."

## 19.

Her gown she knotted ; bold and light  
Upon the steed she sprung :  
Around the darling rider tight  
Her lily arms she flung.  
And forwards, clattering, clattering on,  
In stormy gallop are they gone.  
Rider and steed pant high,  
And sparks and pebbles fly.

## 20.

To left, to right, before their sight  
Fled ridge and plain and heath.  
Swift, swift they fled, and to the tread  
Thundered each bridge beneath.  
"Hurra, hurra ! the moon shines clear ;  
The dead ride swift : my girl, dost fear.  
Dost fear, my girl, the dead ?"—  
"Nay, nay, why name the dead ?"—

## 21.

What tones of wail are on the gale ?  
Why flits the raven round ?  
The death-peal knells, the death-chaunt swells :  
Bear we the corpse to ground.  
And nearer still the bearers drew ;  
Coffin and bier, a ghostly view :  
Hoarse was the dirge to hear,  
As frog-note from the mere.

## 22.

At midnight bear the corpse to ground  
With funeral knell and cry ;  
" Now my young bride to banquet brave  
Comes posting merrily.  
Come clerk, come quire, come all your train,  
And drone me forth the bridal strain.  
Come priest, and speak the rite  
To bless the bridal night."—

## 23.

E'en as he said, 'twas silence dread ;  
Quick, quick, the bier flew fast,  
And hard upon the courser's tread  
Came hurrying, hurrying past.  
And forwards, forwards clattering on,  
In stormy gallop are they gone.  
Riders and steed pant high  
And sparks and pebbles fly.

## 24.

To left, to right, how swift from sight  
Fled tree and hill and tower :  
And right, and left, and right, and swift  
Fled hamlet, town and tower.  
" Hurra, hurra ! the moon shines clear ;  
Swift ride the dead ; my girl, dost fear ?  
Dost fear, my girl, the dead ? "  
" Ah, let them sleep, the dead ! "—

## 25.

And see, and see, yon gallows tree !  
And see, the mangling wheel :  
By dim moon-light a felon sprite  
Dances with airy heel.  
“ Ho, felon, ho ! come, felon, come !  
Trip gaily with the bridegroom home :  
Dance us the bridal measure,  
To grace our nuptial pleasure.”

## 26.

And rustling, rustling close behind  
The felon sprite they hear,  
As in the hazel stirs the wind  
When leaves are dry and sere.  
And forward, forward, clattering on,  
In stormy gallop are they gone.  
Rider and steed pant high,  
And sparks and pebbles-fly.

## 27.

And all that shone beneath the moon,  
Flies in the distance far ;  
They fly, they fly, the heavens on high,  
And flies each lessening star !  
“ Hurra, hurra ! the moon shines clear ;  
Swift ride the dead, my girl, dost fear ?  
Dost fear, my girl, the dead ?”  
“ O me, leave, leave the dead ! ”

## 28.

“ Steed, steed, methinks the cock doth crow ;  
Soon will our sand be run :  
The scent of morning air I know ;  
Steed, urge thee headlong on.  
Sped is our course, 'tis sped, 'tis sped :  
Now opens blithe the bridal bed.  
The dead, the dead ride fast ;  
Here, here we are at last.”

## 29.

Full at an iron-grated door,  
They drive with dangling rein :  
One fillip of the wand he bore,  
Burst lock and bars in twain.  
The birds flew whirring over head,  
And all by graves the pathway led ;  
And grave-stones glimmered white,  
All in the cold moonlight.

## 30.

See, see a grisly sight to tell,  
Quick, quick as twinkling eye,  
The rider's garments piecemeal fell,  
Shrivelling like tinder dry.  
His head became a skull all bare,  
A naked skull, nor lock, nor hair ;  
A skeleton his frame  
With scythe and glass became.

## 31.

The steed rears high, the fire-sparks fly,  
The steed snorts wild and dread ;  
And down and down beneath the ground  
Swift, swift he sunk and fled.  
Howls, howls from upper air there come,  
Groans, hollow groans, from the deep tomb :  
Her heart in mortal strife  
Wrestled 'twixt death and life.

## 32.

Now circling by the moon's pale glance  
The spectres danced amain :  
Linked hand in hand a ghostly dance,  
And howled this warning strain :  
" Bear, bear thy lot ; with God in heaven  
Strive not, though heart and hope be riven.  
Now part, the body leave,  
And God thy soul receive ! "

74. *Original letter from R. Porson to Dr Davy.*

Dear Doctor,

I cannot tell whether you are acquainted or not with the object of the foregoing subscription. He was once of Emanuel, but chusing rather to trust his wits for a maintenance, than the bounty of holy Mother Church, you see to what it has brought him. In the mean time, if you have 'a hand open as day for melting charity,' you may contribute what you see reasonable, and apply to any well-disposed persons, that may fall in your way, for similar exertions of benevolence. The amount of the subscription at present is, I understand, between £400 and £500, so there will be something to purchase an annuity for the poor Poet, after paying his debts, and to give him food, which is necessary, in lieu of fame, which is not necessary. God forbid it should! How many of us would then be in want of necessaries! We have been rather in expectation of you here in town this Christmas, but I suppose, diseases, and consequently deaths, have been so rife, that you have had no leisure from jaunting or merrymaking. I have got a copy of Corai's *Hippocrates de Aeribus, Aquis, et Locis*, which, if you come shortly to town, you may take with you; if not, I shall send it by Hole, when he passes this way in his return to Cambridge. I have been at death's door myself, but by a due neglect of the faculty, and plentiful use of my old remedy, (powder of post,) I am pretty well recovered, and am in any way but in medicine,

Dear Doctor,

Your humble servant to command,

Strand, No. 145 (Mr. Perry's) 1 Feb. 1802. R. PORSON.

Dr Davy, Caius College, Cambridge.

75. *The same to the same.*

Dear Doctor,

I expect, God willing, to set off from Bury next Thursday-

morning at seven, and to arrive at College about twelve; if therefore you can make a three-and-half o'clock dinner convenient, so: if you either are not at leisure, or not at Cambridge, why there is no more to be said, (*facilis jactura merendæ*,) but that I am, Yours sincerely,

Coltishall, Norfolk, 23 Sept. 1806.

B. Porson.

Dr Davy, Master of Caius College Cambridge.

#### 76. PORSON AND PARR.

"Nor was he, (Dr Th. Young,) less remarkable for his acquirements as a scholar, than for his attainments as a man of science. As early as 1794, he contributed some classical articles to Hodgkin's *Calligraphia Græca*, as he did afterwards to Dalzell's *Collectanea Majora*, printed at Edinburgh in 1797, and 1802. The friend, and sometimes the boon companion of Porson; (of whose life, character, and scholarship he has given a masterly sketch in the Supplement to the last edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*,) it may easily be supposed that he was not unacquainted with the language and literature of ancient Greece; and on the death of his illustrious friend, it was only Dr. Parr, and very few others, that could rank above Dr Young as Greek scholars."

The Gent's Mag. Sept. 1829. p. 278.

¶ His hieroglyphical discoveries are there explained. See also *Class. Journ.* LXXIX.

#### 77. Porson.

*Thetford*, Nov. 29, 1834. I dined yesterday with Mr. Hustler, and met Lord Euston, and the Miss Hammonds of Farnham.

Hustler thinks that Porson's antagonist must have said, Sir,

in conclusion I beg to say that I have a contemptible opinion of you, as leading *less* directly to the answer.

Mrs Hustler said that Pugh found a *halfpenny* in his Parish of Botsham, (qu. *orthography*,) and in his Will left it back to his Parish! Hustler has the document signed by the authorities at Trin. Coll. respecting Pugh's breaking the lamps. Dr Farmer got him employed to catalogue the books in the Public Library; Pugh read them instead of proceeding to catalogue them; Farmer complained and got him ousted; Pugh, somewhat disordered in his mind, perhaps from the first, was so excited as to meditate a curious species of revenge. Farmer, as Mrs. Pryme said, had been very active as a Commissioner for lighting, etc. the Town of Cambridge. Pugh determined to break the lamps, and after having caused much destruction, saying as he knocked each lamp down, (as R. W. Evans told me,) 'There goes a democrat!' was caught in the fact by a bargeman, and brought before the authorities, and was removed from College, and placed under surveillance, did not return to College till some years afterwards, when he was considered harmless.

#### 78. *Hustler—Brydges—Mills.*

*Euston, Nov. 9, 1834.* HUSTLER thinks that PORSON's declaration against Socinianism is important as shewing the grammatical sense, which he attached to certain words.

Sir E. Brydges has much notice of Porson in his Autobiography; Mr Sworde thinks that he is generally very correct in sketching characters.

Mr Mills, an old clergyman at Bury, told Hustler that an Earl of Bristol in former times was lecturing a younger son on his expensive turn, and said that he could not afford it, having to make an eldest son, on which the younger son boldly said

to his father, Your lordship had better select your puppy, and drown all the rest !

HUSTLER said that a Glergyman called Simon put in his hat, *Σίμωνος ὁ ἄρτος*. A friend asked him if thieves could understand Greek ? Why, Sir, can they read English ?

HUSTLER said that DR MANSELL's lines were :

A singing man, and yet not sing ?  
Come justify thy patron's bounty ;  
Give us a song. Excuse me, Sir,  
My voice is another County.

#### 79. *Writing.*

1. On the character of a scholar see EARLE's *Mierocosmography*, p. 61. drunkard, p. 153. critic, p. 139.

2. He was so fond of the act of writing that he asked Mr Heber to send to him his vellum-bound books, and he would letter them on the back : Heber said that he could not think of allowing him to be so employed, but he would send to him an *Athenæus* (?) with Brunck's Mss. notes, and he should be obliged to him to put some of his own notes in the book. This he did, as Heber told Mr. Dyce.

#### 80. PORSON's *Memory*, etc.

WALTHAMSTOW, *Febr.* 15, 1835. 1. Dined with MR COGAN, who says that he has heard this anecdote of PORSON's memory. He called on a friend, who was reading THUCYDIDES, and wished to ask him a question about the meaning of a word. Porson, hearing the word, repeated the passage to him. His friend asked how he knew that he meant *that* particular

passage. Because, said PORSON, the word occurs only *twice*, in THUCYDIDES, once on the *right* hand, and once on the *left*, and observing on *which* side you looked, I knew the passage, to which you referred.

no. 43

2. One of the JUDGES once in Court thought that he had met with a case in point, which he wanted by way of *precedent*, but he could not recollect the place. He asked if MR SERJEANT HILL was in Court; he presented himself, was asked the question, and referred to the page of the vol., which contained it.

3. MR R. COGAN says that HORNE TOOKE subpoena'd PITT to his Trial; they had belonged to a political club; PITT could recollect nothing, on which Tooke said that he never knew a more convenient memory for forgetting what he did not wish to remember, and for remembering what ought to be forgotten.

4. The REV. C. Dewhurst, with whom PORSON was intimate, had a most exact memory for precise dates, and when complimented on it, said that he always remembered what he wished not to forget.

4. PORSON said that the stranger at the CYDER-CELLAR conversed learnedly about the *οἶνος κριθίνος* or whiskey of the ancients; he surprised Porson with the accuracy, variety, and extent of his information, he was never found out after all Porson's enquiries. A fortnight afterwards Porson was asked about the existence of the DEVIL. Sir, said he, I doubted his existence till I saw him seated in that chair a fortnight ago!

no. 41

6. MR. SHAEN, (PRYME's friend, a Barrister,) told to me from a friend that Porson was once so drunk that in returning to his rooms in the Temple he could not find the *right* staircase, and begged aid from the friend. He asked the friend, who was leaving him at his table for Bedfordshire, to leave the wine, water, etc. and even two bottles of medicine.

no. 42

81. *Memory.*

Walthamstow, Febr. 15, 1835. DR FURNESS [Furneaux] reported a Speech of LORD THURLOW, so accurately that he differed only by a single word from the copy, which Lord T.'s Clerk had previously to its delivery prepared; F. sent the report to his Lordship and had it collated with the copy of his Clerk; he admitted that the word in the copy of the Clerk was not used by him in the delivery.

MISS JERMYN, Daughter of the REV. DR JERMYN, of SWAFFHAM in CAMBRIDGESHIRE, aged 15, reported a Geological Speech of SEDGWICK, as he told to me himself, far more accurately than the regular reporters. She also made from memory an abstract of a philosophical paper delivered by PROFESSOR WHEWELL.

## 82.

March 18. Write to Shepherd about Petrarch and the book, which he was to give to me.

May 8, 1835. Dr. Haviland said that Parr had discerned one fault in the Latinity of Dr. Lawrence's Life of Dr. Nichols, and he told Haviland to read and find it out by the next time he saw him. Haviland spoke of an article by Lawrence on the Dropsy as very good.

## 83. Porson.

"His reading was of course immense: he was an excellent French scholar, but in his native language, in the Latin, and in the Greek, was most familiarly and profoundly versed. He had indeed applied the knowledge he had gained of the origin

and structure of language in general to all these dialects, (if we may so express ourselves,) of the universal language ; and had not his eminence in classical literature, by its uncommon lustre, obscured other attainments, he would doubtless have been considered as one of the first English scholars."

Pantologia, a New Encyclopaedia, by M. Good, O. Gregory, and N. Bosworth, 1813.

#### 84. PORSON—REV. A. JOHNSON, &c.

LONDON, *Sept.* 23, 1835. The REV. ARTHUR JOHNSON, whom I met at MR DYCE's on Monday, observed that in PORSON's verses on HERMANN πλὴν "*Ερμάννος*" could not be right ; it should be *Ερμάννου*, as in τόδε Φωκυλίδου, where πλὴν is a preposition.

A curious instance of the frailty of memory is that in my book on Junius about the Leigh-Peerage.

DR HENRY LEE, with whom I drank tea to-night, says that he had heard from his father that MACKINTOSH let PITT have a sight of the MSS. about the Birmingham-Riots, and that Mackintosh gave out that he could never recover them.

REV. ARTHUR JOHNSON said that Bp. Burges has made a conjectural emendation of Horace about "*stagna lacusque*," at the end of his Horace, which he found by the Aldine reading.

#### 85. Porson—Dyce—Wright.

London, *Sept.* 27, 1835. I drank tea with Mr Dyce, where I met Geo. Burges, and Mr Wright, formerly of Trin. Coll., a Saxon scholar, a cousin of Professor Airy, living at 91 Newman Street.

1. Dyce doubts my opinion about *καλέομαι*, referring to a passage of Callimachus about Arcadia being said to have been under water. 2. DOBREE always spoke of Elmsley as *ἀρχικλεπτίστατος*, as G. B. says. 3. Goodall told G. B. that all the main parts of Burney's Reviews were written by Porson; he had heard Porson speak of certain points, discussed or developed therein, long before they appeared in the Reviews. G. B. considers that such matter as about the comparatives in *ων* and *οὐδεποτε* with *δε* after it were supplied by PORSON. In the Hecuba PORSON gives something as his own, which BURNLEY had given; if not his own, he would have made an acknowledgement to BURNLEY. In only one instance had G. B. discovered any conjecture given by PORSON, which belonged to another, and that is one from MARKLAND. 4. G. B. says that PORSON once wanting a particular book, went to BURNLEY's Library, and fetched it away in his absence. When BURNLEY returned, and learnt the fact, he set off instantly for LONDON by coach or chaise, and demanded back the book, saying that PORSON had the run of his Library at GREENWICH, but that he would lend no book out of it. DYCE has heard T. TAYLOR speak of his interview with BURNLEY, when he wanted to borrow one of the Commentators on Aristotle; after much parley, and talk about how long he wanted it, he would return it in three days, TAYLOR said that he could not read it through in less than a month, and, as Dr B. was unwilling to lend it, he was withdrawing, when B. called him back, saying that he did not wish to act uncivilly by a scholar, he would lend it to him, taking an acknowledgment; TAYLOR proposed to express in it that it should be returned by such a time, but BURNLEY insisted on its being returnable on demand. Ask DYCE for the particulars. It was at the PINELLI sale, where PORSON had the talk with TAYLOR about PLUTARCH and MAXIMUS TYRIUS.

## 86. BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES

OF

## THE LATE PROFESSOR PORSON.

## I. FROM THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE.

"At 12 of the clock at night, after a short illness, at the house of the LONDON-INSTITUTION, of which he was the PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN, RICHARD PORSON, M. A. of TRINITY-COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, and GREEK PROFESSOR at that UNIVERSITY. He was born on *Christmas-day*, 1758."

"Mr Professor Porson was born at East-Ruston, in Norfolk, on *Christmas-day*, 1759,\* so that he was only in his 49th year. Every thing about this eminent scholar, and particularly the circumstances, which laid the foundation of that most inestimable memory, by which he was enabled to store his mind with all the riches of literature, ancient and modern, will become truly interesting to the world. He owed the blessing to the care and judgment of his father, MR HUGGIN PORSON, who was *Parish-Clerk* of EAST-RUSTON, and who, though in humble life, and without the advantages himself of early education, laid the basis of his son's unparalleled acquirements. From the earliest dawn of intellect Mr Porson began the task of fixing the attention of his children, three sons and a daughter; and he had taught RICHARD, his eldest son, all the common rules of arithmetic without the use of a book or slate, pen or pencil, up to the cube-root, before he was nine years of age. The memory was thus incessantly exercised; and by this early habit of working a question in

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\* [In the previous paragraph the date of birth is 1758. E. H. B.]

arithmetic by the mind only, he acquired such a talent of close and intense thinking, and such a power of arranging every operation that occupied his thoughts, as in process of time to render the most difficult problems, which to other men required the assistance of written figures, easy to the retentive faculties of his memory. He was initiated in letters by a process equally efficacious. His father taught him to read and write at one and the same time. He drew the form of the letter either with chalk on a board, or with the finger in sand; and Richard was made at once to understand and imitate the impression. As soon as he could speak, he could trace the letters; and the exercise delighting his fancy, an ardor of imitating whatever was put before him, was excited to such a degree, that the walls of the house were covered with characters, which attracted notice from their neatness and fidelity of delineation. At nine years of age he and his youngest brother, Thomas, were sent to the Village-school, kept by a Mr SUMMERS, a plain, but intelligent and worthy man, who having had the misfortune in infancy to cripple his left hand, was educated for the purpose of teaching, and he discharged his duties with the most exemplary attention. He professed nothing beyond English, writing, and arithmetic; but he was a good accomptant, and an excellent writing-master. He perfected the PROFESSOR in that delightful talent of writing, in which he so peculiarly excelled; but which we are doubtful whether it was to be considered as an advantage or detriment to him in his progress through life. It certainly had a considerable influence on his habits, and made him devote many precious moments to copying, which might have been better employed in composition. It has been the means, however, of enriching his Library with annotations in a text the most beautiful, and with such perfect imitation of the original manuscript or printing, as to embellish every work, which his erudition enabled him to elucidate. He continued under Mr Summers three years; and every evening during that time, he had to repeat by heart to his father the lessons and the tasks of the day; and this not in a loose and desultory manner,

but in the rigorous order, in which whatever he had been occupied about, had been done; and thus again the process of recollection was cherished and strengthened, so as to become a quality of his mind. It was impossible that such a youth should remain unnoticed, even in a place so thinly peopled and so obscure as the parish of East-Ruston. The Rev. Mr Hewitt heard of his extraordinary propensities to study, his gift of attention to whatever was taught him, and the wonderful fidelity with which he retained whatever he had acquired. He took him and his brother Thomas under his care and instructed them in the classics. The progress of both was great, but that of Richard was most extraordinary. It became the topic of astonishment beyond the district; and when he had reached his 14th year had engaged the notice of all the gentlemen in the vicinity. Among others he was mentioned as a prodigy to an opulent and liberal man, the late Mr Norris, who, after having put the youth under an examination of the severest kind, and from which an ordinary boy would have shrunk dismayed, he was sent to Eton.

“ This happened in the month of *August*, 1774, when he was in his 15th year; and in that great seminary he, almost from the commencement of his career, displayed such a superiority of intellect,—such facility of acquirements,—such quickness of perception,—and such a talent for bringing forward to his purpose all that he had ever read, that the upper boys took him into their society and promoted the cultivation of his mind by their lessons as well probably as by imposing upon him the performance of their own exercises. He was courted by them as the never-failing resource in every difficulty, and in all the playful excursions of the imagination: in their frolics as well as in their serious tasks, Porson was the constant adviser and support. He used to dwell on this lively part of his youth with peculiar complacency; and we have heard him repeat a *Drama*, which he wrote for exhibition in their long chamber, and other compositions, both of seriousness and drollery, with a zest that a recollection of his enjoyment at the time never failed to revive in him. We

fear, however, that at this early age his constitution received a shock, which was soon after aggravated by the death of his worthy patron. An imposthume formed on his lungs, and he was threatened by a consumption. But it fortunately broke, and he recovered his health, though his frame was weakened. The death of Mr Norris was the source of severe mortification to him; for though, by the kindness of some eminent and liberal persons, he was continued at Eton, he felt the loss he had sustained in the most poignant degree.

"He was entered of TRINITY-COLLEGE towards the end of 1777; and his character having gone before him to the UNIVERSITY, he was from the first regarded as a youth, whose extraordinary endowments would keep up and extend the reputation of the unrivalled SOCIETY, into which he had entered. Nor did he disappoint the hopes that had been formed of him. In every branch of study to which he applied himself, his course was so rapid as to astonish every competent observer. It happened that he was drawn first to read in mathematics, in which from his early exercises he was so eminently calculated to shine, but from which he drew no benefit; and then by the prospect of a SCHOLARSHIP, which, however, did not become vacant till long after he sat down to the Classics. In this pursuit he soon acquired undisputed pre-eminence. He got the *Medal* of course, and was elected a FELLOW in 1784.

"In 1785 he took his degree of MASTER OF ARTS: but long before the period had elapsed when he must either enter into HOLY ORDERS, or surrender his FELLOWSHIP, he had, after the most grave and deliberate investigation to which he had brought all that acute gift of examination, that has been made so perceptible in his *Letters* to MR ARCHDEACON TRAVIS,\* made up his mind on the subject of Subscription. We are sure his determination cost him many painful and laborious days and months of study.

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\* "Which first graced the pages of this MISCELLANY: see our Volumes for 1788, and 1789. His acute critiques on Sir John Hawkins had before appeared in 1787, under the signature of Sundry Whereof."

His heart and mind were deeply penetrated by the purest sentiments of religion; and it was a memorable and most estimable feature of his character, that in no moment the most unguarded,—in that ardor of discussion, which alone drew him into indulgence,—was he ever known to utter a single expression of discontent at the ESTABLISHMENT,—of derision of those who thought differently from himself,—much less of profanation or impiety. He was truly and actively pious; but it was of an order that admitted not of shackles. So early as 1788, he had made up his mind to surrender his FELLOWSHIP, though, with an enfeebled constitution, he had nothing to depend upon but acquirements, that are very unprofitable to their owner.

“A LAY-FELLOWSHIP, to be sure, might have secured his services to the cause of letters, but the disingenuous conduct of an individual withheld from him that resource. In 1791 his FELLOWSHIP ceased, and he was thrown upon the world without a profession, his feelings wounded by the mortification he had suffered, and with a constitution little qualified to encounter the bustle of the world. Some private friends, however, stepped in, and soon after he was elected Greek Professor of Cambridge by an unanimous vote of the seven electors. The distinction of this appointment was grateful to him. The salary is but £40 a year. It was his earnest wish, however, to have made it an active and efficient office; and it was his determination to give an *Annual Course of Lectures* in the College, if rooms had been assigned him for the purpose. These *Lectures*, as he designed, and had in truth made preparations for them, would have been invaluable; for he would have found occasion to elucidate the languages in general, and to have displayed their relations, their differences, their near and remote connections, their changes, their structure, their principles of etymology, and their causes of corruption. If any one man was qualified for this gigantic task, it was Mr Professor Porson; but his wishes were counteracted.

“From this time, instead of *Lectures*, he turned his thoughts to publication. His *Letters* to Mr Archdeacon Travis,

entitled *Symbolæography*, and he afterwards left the room, and brought one of his *Catalogues*, in which that book was described.\* He remained in conversation in this way during five hours, sometimes in the full exercise of his faculties, at others wild and

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\* [West William, of the Inner Temple, Attorney at the Common Law—SYMBOLÆOGRAPHIA, WHICH MAY BE TERMED THE ART, DESCRIPTION, OR IMAGE OF INSTRUMENTS, COVENANTS, CONTRACTS, ETC. OR THE NOTARIE OR SCRIVENER, COLLECTED AND DISPOSED IN FOUR SEVERALL BOOKES, PRINTED BY R. Tottel, 1590, 4to 1592; BY C. Yetsweirt, 1594, 4to; BY J. Yetsweirt, 1597, 4to; BY T. Wight AND B. Norton, 1598, 1602, 1603, 1605, 1606, fol. 1610, 1611, 4to 1615, 1621, 1632, 1641, fol. PART I. AUGMENTED WITH DIVERS NEW PRESIDENTS NOT FORMERLY PRINTED. PART II. NEWLY CORRECTED AND AMENDED IN THE FOUR SEVERAL TREATISES, 1. OF FINES AND CONCORDS, 2. OF COMMON RECOVERIES, 3. OF OFFENCES AND INDICTMENTS, 4. COMPROMISES AND ARBITRAMENTS, WHEREUNTO IS ANNEXED ANOTHER TREATISE OF EQUITY, THE JURISDICTION AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE HIGH COURT OF CHANCERY, ETC. WITH OTHER CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONS, 1647, 4to." Dr Watt's BIBL. BRIT.

My learned friend, Mr Amos, to whom I applied for information respecting this work, writes word to me:—"TEMPLE, AUG. 28, 1832. I have borrowed a sight of West's SYMBOLÆOGRAPHY, which may be termed the ART OR DESCRIPTION OF INSTRUMENTS AND PRECEDENTS, EDN. 1622. There is a Latin DEDICATION to Sir Edmund Anderson, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. It commences thus:—'WHAT SYMBOLÆOGRAPHY IS? SYMBOLÆOGRAPHY is an art or cunning rightly to forme and make written instruments, it is either judicial or extrajudicial.' The book contains 700 pages. There are about 7 or 8 pages of observations on the law of Wills, and about 20 pages of precedents of wills. The book is not considered as at all useful by the Profession in the present day, though several old works upon the subject of Wills have much authority, as Swinburn. I think Porson must have been speaking for effect, or humbugging, the name SYMBOLÆOGRAPHY being calculated for such purposes."

Porson had probably seen the book by accident, and had been struck by it as the only book of the kind, which he had seen or found suitable to his notions; but it was very characteristic of him to refer to a learned book of a former age, but now of an obscure or obsolete kind, with a Greek title to recommend it. At such a period he had too much reverence for truth to deal in humbug papers. The number of editions, through which it had passed, seems to shew that it once had a reputation. E. H. B.]

wandering ; when at three of the clock he went to Cole's *Coffee-House*, near the Royal Exchange, where he frequently dined. After talking to a friend there, he suddenly left the place, and proceeded to Cornhill, where, looking up at the vane and clock of the Exchange, which had been under repair, a number of persons assembled round him, surprised at his fixed attention, the motive of which he did not explain. The Porter of the London-Institution happening to observe him in this situation, conducted him back to Cole's ; where, on taking two glasses of wine, the paroxysm and insensibility returned, and he was carried home in a coach to the Old-Jewry, and remained in a condition of torpor, with very short intermissions, until *Sunday*, when he died. Perhaps no man had more contempt for the practice of physic than Mr Porson, and yet no one had a more numerous and intimate acquaintance with gentlemen of the Medical Profession. He was, during his illness, visited by a great variety of persons in all departments of the pharmaceutic. Among not the least active were Dr Babington and Mr Norris. The body was opened by some medical men, and they have given a *Report*, ascribing his death 'to the effused lymph in and upon the brain, which they believe to have been the effect of recent inflammation. The heart was sound ; and the pericardium contained the usual quantity of lymph. The left lung had adhesions to the *pleura*, and bore the marks of former inflammation. The right lung was in a perfectly sound state.' This is signed by Dr Babington, Sir Wm Blizard, Mr Norris, Mr Blizard, and Mr Upton. In refutation of an idle falsehood about the form of his skull, they add, 'that it was thinner than usual, and of hard consistence.'

"Mr Porson has left a sister living, an amiable and accomplished woman, the wife of Siday Hawes, Esq., of Coltishall, in Norfolk. They have five children, and their eldest son is entered of Benet-College, Cambridge. Henry, the second brother of the Professor, was settled in a farm in Essex, and died young, leaving three children. His brother Thomas kept a boarding-

school at Fakenham, an excellent scholar, and died in 1792, without issue; and his father, Mr Huggin Porson, died in 1805, in his 74th year. His mother died in 1784, aged 57.

"On *Monday, Oct. 8*, his remains were removed from the house of the LONDON-INSTITUTION in the old-JEWRY, in order to be deposited in TRINITY-COLLEGE CHAPEL, CAMBRIDGE. The Directors of the Institution ordered the house to be shut for the day, and the *Under-Librarians* and other officers assisted in the solemnity. The procession from London consisted of four mourning-coaches, followed by six private carriages; and the persons who attended him were his relatives and most intimate friends. At half after two of the clock on *Tuesday-afternoon*, the hearse arrived at Trinity-College, Cambridge, and was received at the great gate, and conveyed to the hall, where, according to ancient usage, in cases where this distinguished tribute of respect is paid to a member, the body lay in state till five of the clock; at which hour the Lord Bishop of Bristol, (master of the college,) the vice-master, senior and junior fellows, bachelors of arts, scholars, and other members resident in the University, in their academical habits, and in black scarfs, bands, and gloves, walked from the combination-room, accompanied by the chief-mourners, into the hall, and after moving round the body, which was placed in the midst, they took their seats, the chief-mourners being placed on the right hand and left of the master. Several *epitaphs* in Greek and English verse,—the effusions of reverential respect for his high attainments, and of love for his virtues,—were placed on the pall, and were read with the most sympathetic interest by his former associates in study. An *Anthem* was chaunted by the choir; after which the body was raised by the bearers, and a most solemn procession was made round the great quadrangle of the college, from the hall to the chapel in this order:—

TWO PORTERS,

SINGING MEN *and* BOYS, *two and two*,

MR. WILSON, *the* UNDERTAKER,

A PAGE, *the* FEATHERLID, *a* PAGE,

DR DAVY, PHYSICIAN, MR. OAKES, APOTHECARY,  
*The* REV. JOHN SHEPHERD, } { *The* REV. MR HENSHAW,  
 MINISTER OF TRINITY-CHURCH, } { CONDUCT OF THE CHAPEL,

*The* LORD BISHOP OF BRISTOL, MASTER,

THE BODY,

*Supported by the eight SENIOR FELLOWS,*

*Viz.* THE REV. G. A. BROWNE, REV. DR RAMSDEN, REV. DR

RAINE, REV. J. LAMBERT, REV. G. F. TAVELL, REV. J.

HAILSTONE, REV. J. DAVIS, *and the* REV. J. H.

RENOUARD, VICE-MASTER.

CHIEF-MOURNERS,

JAMES PERRY *and* SIDAY HAWES, JUN., ESQRS,

BROTHER-IN-LAW *and* NEPHEW OF THE DECEASED :

JUNIOR FELLOWS, *two and two,*

SCHOLARS, *two and two,*

PENSIONERS, *two and two,*

MR JOHN NEWBY, CLERK OF THE CHAPEL,

*And other* SERVANTS *of the* COLLEGE, *two and two.*

On entering the Chapel, which was illuminated, the Lord Bishop, Chief-Mourners, and all the Members of the College, took their places, and the Choir performed an *Anthem*; after which the Lord Bishop read the *Lesson*, and the procession moved in the same order to the grave which was at the foot of the statue of Sir Isaac Newton, and surrounded by those of all the illustrious persons, which this College has produced. When they had taken their stations around the grave, and the body was placed above it ready for interment, the *Funeral Anthem* was performed by the Choir in the adjoining Chapel, during the most perfect silence of the auditory, and with the most solemn effect. The Service was then read by the Bishop with as awful, dignified, and impressive a pathos, as was ever witnessed on any former solemnity of the kind. He was himself overwhelmed, as he proceeded, by his feelings; and he communicated the sympathetic emotion to every listening friend of the deceased. Nothing could be more solemn and affecting than his tone and delivery.

The Senior Members of the College, who had lived with the Professor in habits of the most endearing intercourse for *thirty* years, and who had had the best means of estimating the wonderful height and variety of his attainments, shed tears of sorrow over the grave; and the whole assembly displayed a feeling of grief and interest, which bespoke the sense they entertained of the irreparable loss, that not only their own Society, but the Literary World, had suffered by his death."

*The Gentleman's Magazine, Sept. and Oct. 1808, pp. 862-946.*

*Spital-Square, Oct. 12*

"MR URBAN,

It cannot but afford a subject of the deepest regret to every mind susceptible of the emotions of humanity, that thousands of our fellow creatures are prematurely consigned to the grave, through the want of that speedy assistance, which the calamities, incident to our feeble frame, so imperiously demand. Such reflections as these occurred to my mind, when I lately read an account of the eminently learned Professor Porson. His body was for a considerable time exposed to the cold and no medical aid employed. Had the plans, which I recommended 20 years ago,\* been adopted, namely the establishment of *Receiving-houses*, where an apparatus, and every thing suitable to support the philanthropic efforts of the faculty, would have been readily furnished, the triumphs of death might, in a variety of instances, have been abridged, and many a valuable member of society restored to his afflicted relatives.

"In my opinion, as accidents of the most melancholy nature so frequently occur, the Legislature is called upon by every argu-

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\* "At that period, we well recollect, this worthy philanthropist published an ADDRESS ON PREMATURE DEATH AND PREMATURE INTERMENT, and for twice that space of time, by his LECTURES ON SUSPENDED ANIMATION, and his peculiar habits of practice, has laboured effectually in the cause of life, and of the HUMANE SOCIETY. EDITOR."

ment that the most disinterested humanity can suggest, to comply with the wishes of the public, either in soothing the miseries of life by condolence, or succouring them by substantial service.

"The preservation of the lives of their fellow creatures is an object peculiarly worthy the attention of a British Parliament. They cannot employ the public money to a better purpose. I have labored near 40 years in forwarding and facilitating a plan for the restoration of the apparently dead; I have lived to see it fixed upon a permanent basis, notwithstanding the almost insuperable difficulties and prejudices, with which it had to contend. And I cannot but indulge the pleasing hope that the Legislature, which has so frequently diffused its benevolence for the comfort of an inferior animal, will not be inattentive to the distresses of those rational beings, who, from the commencement of existence, are exposed to an infinite variety of diseases.

"Impartial posterity will honor the memory of those illustrious *Senators*, who achieved a work so perfective of our nature,—so wonderfully adapted to snatch every rank of life from the jaws of death.

WILLIAM HAWES."

*The Gent. Mag. Oct. 1808, p. 904.*

"In the year 1767, a Society was instituted at Amsterdam, for the recovery of the drowned, in consequence of some instances of recovery, which had been happily effected, a short time before in Switzerland. *Memoirs* of this Society were published, and a copy of them brought from Holland by Dr Cogan; these he translated in 1773, in order to shew to the British public the practicability of recovering persons, who had hitherto been considered as dead, in consequence of being taken out of the water with every appearance of death. These *Memoirs* were no sooner translated than they engaged the benevolent and human mind of Mr Hawes. He immediately advertised that he would pay rewards to those, who would acquaint him, within a certain time, of any person, who had been drowned in his neighbourhood. This he

did till the Society was established in the following year; and certainly he could not have give a more sincere or disinterested proof of his wish to promote so valuable and benevolent an object. In the summer of 1774, an association of 30 gentlemen, one half of whom were the friends of Dr Cogan, and the other of Mr Hawes, formed themselves into a Society, whose object like that of Amsterdam, was to promote the recovery of persons who were apparently dead by drowning; and like that society also, their views were at first confined to the recovery of the drowned. Other respectable names were soon added to the list; and successful cases began to increase its numbers and reputation. Dr Cogan, during his continuance in England, prepared the *Report* of the Society from year to year:—that he did it with judgment, would be unnecessary to say, as he can do nothing but with the hand of a master. During this time Mr Hawes was most zealously active in promoting the views of the infant institution.”

*Account of the Late WM HAWES, M. D.*

*Monthly-Mag. Jan., 1809, p. 596.*

## II. FROM THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

“*Some Account of the late RICHARD PORSON, ESQ. M. A.,  
and GREEK PROFESSOR in the UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE.*

*Sint hic etiam sua præmia laudi.*

“It is the fashion to pay court to whatever is vulgarly considered either as great or noble. The demise of those encumbered with wealth, or bedecked with stars or titles, is announced with pomp, and their names loaded with panegyric. Their faults and failings are at the same time carefully concealed, while every semblance of virtue is ostentatiously brought forward, so that the recollection of the dead may become a subject of servile flattery for the living. We are sorry to observe and remark that it is otherwise, notwithstanding their superior pretensions, in respect

to men of letters. A 'green-eyed jealousy,' with a few honorable exceptions, seems to pervade the whole fraternity. The poet criticises his brother bard with acrimony,—the antiquary derides the collector of antiquities, — and the historian *reviews* the historian with a splenetic envy of his talents. We have only to look back to the reign of Anne, the boasted Augustan age of English literature, to perceive the paltry arts, and the envenomed artifices made use of even by the greatest scholars of that day, in respect to each other. Whoever is acquainted with the literary history of the present epoch, must also lament that the decorum of private life, gradually refined into elegance, in respect to all other classes of society, seems to be forgotten in the communications, which ought to take place among those, who aspire at once to amuse and to instruct not only their contemporaries, but the remotest posterity. Meanwhile our illustrious men seem determined to wing their flight to other and better worlds. The subject of the present *Memoir* has just been numbered with the dead, and the renowned Author of the *ENNEA PITEPOENTA* perhaps at this very moment ceases to be reckoned among the living.\* The ashes of Hurd are scarcely cold in the grave; and his antagonist, Parr, (now become a solitary Leviathan in the ocean of ancient literature,) is fast declining into the vale of years. Let us at once cherish and venerate such names, if we wish to do credit either to our country or ourselves.

“ Richard Porson, a native of Norfolk, was born at East-Ruston in that County, on Dec. 25, 1759, and was the eldest son of a former parish-clerk. Seemingly destined to a humble station in life, he became of course the architect of his own fortune; had he been a worldly-minded man, the edifice erected by him might have been far more brilliant, as well as commodious.

“ In the character of this celebrated Scholar, there was one

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\* “The writer of this article is proud to say with the great Roman Orator, Nigidium vidi, Cratippum cognovi.”

grand characteristic feature, which predominated from his early infancy, gave a color to his future life, and led by degrees to all his immense acquisitions. This was a most astonishingly retentive memory, at once extensive and minute, accurate beyond common conception, and a source of continual amusement to all his friends. The history of the early part of this gentleman's life seems to prove that, if this quality of the human mind cannot be actually created, yet it may be improved to an extent, of which, in this felicitous instance, the *maximum* has been nearly attained.

"Mr Huggin Porson, the father, like many of those, who have not received an early education themselves, was determined to communicate this blessing to his children, who consisted of three sons and a daughter. He himself was self-taught, for he had not begun his own studies until a late period of life ; but he had perceived in the progress of them, that memory was an *inlet* to every species of knowledge, and that without this the task of teaching resembled the boyish practice of inscribing characters on the sand of the sea-shore. He determined, therefore, to pay particular attention to the qualifications alluded to ; and it is eminently deserving of the attention of both parents and instructors to weigh, consider, and imitate, the singular means recurred to by him upon this occasion.

"The elder Mr Porson began 'from the earliest dawn of intellect,' to collect, fix, and concentrate the attention of his children. He commenced, of course, with Richard, the first-born, whom he instructed in all the common rules of arithmetic, without any of the usual references to book or slate, and following this practice with incessant perseverance, and increasing success, the future Professor was at length capable of *working*, by the unaided operation of his own mind, a question in the cube-root, before he had completed his ninth year. This astonishing power of intellectual effort once attained, the process in respect to every thing else ceased to be difficult. A regular, close, and intense combination of thought was thus achieved, so that in

future life, while others looked constantly to the board for the figure, young Porson could solve a difficult mathematical problem without recurring once to the diagram.

“His initiation into the alphabet was obtained by a double process, simple indeed, (for every thing excellent is generally simple in its principle,) but wonderfully efficacious. His father taught him to read and write at one and the same time. To accomplish this, he drew the outlines of the letter with chalk on a board, and the compliant pupil instantly attempted and completed the imitation. As soon as he could speak, he traced the alphabetical character with a considerable degree of precision and correctness; and it ought not to be omitted here, that this sedulous and worthy parent appears to have recurred to the ancient Eastern practice of writing in sand with the human finger, traces of which are to be found in the Bible, long before either the indefatigable Mr Lancaster, or the praise-worthy Dr Bell laudably introduced it into their respective seminaries. Taking great delight in imitation, Richard soon began to excel as a penman; the walls were covered with his delineations, and while yet a boy, without meaning any offence, he wrote what is called ‘a better hand,’ than any of the Bench of Bishops, or perhaps their predecessors, since the times of the primitive Apostles.

“The period of from nine till twelve, was passed under the superintendence of Mr Summers, a Village-school-master, whose humble powers as a teacher did not extend beyond his native language, writing, arithmetic, and the rudiments of Latin; but here again paternal interposition came in aid of the scanty means afforded for instruction. For the boy was accustomed every evening to repeat to his father the labors of the day in the exact order, in which they had occurred, so as at once to strengthen both his memory, and his judgment, by that habit of recollection, in which he excelled his contemporaries still more, if possible, than in his attainments, in respect to learning.

“At length a rumor was spread abroad that a prodigy, in the

shape of a little boy, had made its appearance in the obscure parish of East-Ruston. Among others was the Rev. Mr Hewitt,—a gentleman, whose beneficence deserves high commendation ; for not content with simple admiration, he determined to cultivate a wild plant, which by being nurtured under his own fostering care, might expand its foliage in a richer soil, and exhibit all its yet unknown beauties to the day.

“ From that moment Richard Porson and his youngest brother Thomas, daily attended Mr. Hewitt ; Henry, the second brother, went one voyage to sea, and afterwards settled as a farmer. Richard’s progress in classical learning, to which his attention was now turned for the first time, proved such as might be expected from a youth of this description ; and after two years’ application, other accomplishments, chiefly produced by a memory tenacious in the extreme, fully disclosed themselves.

“ Being now upwards of fourteen years of age, the time had arrived when it became necessary that the further progress of this wonderful youth should be attended to. But without patrimonial fortune, wealthy friends, or opulent connections, how was this to be effected ? Interest was at the same time wanting even for a Scholarship at one of the great public Seminaries, and at this eventful crisis of his life the least stoppage in the career of education might have proved fatal ! To supply, however, all the deficiencies arising from penury, and want of patronage, a generous stranger stepped in, and like a Guardian Angel held forth his protecting hand. This was the late Mr Norris, who, distrusting common report, insisted on a rigorous examination, which the pupil stood unappalled, and behaved so as to obtain great credit to himself. On this the gentleman just alluded to, chiefly from his own purse, in part with the assistance of others, purchased to the amount of £80 *per annum* in the *short* Annuities, knowing that in respect to the duration of this fund, a portion of time would still elapse fully sufficient for the completion of Mr. Porson’s education ; it was also imagined perhaps that an annual supply, determinable after a certain interval, would serve as a stimulus to industry.

"Be this as it may, in the month of *August*, 1774, while still in his 15th year, and with a temporary provision of four-score pounds a year, the subject of the *Memoir* repaired to Eton. There on the classic banks of the Thames, he was accustomed to mingle amusement with study, and frolic with the most serious occupations. There too honors awaited him, that must have been peculiarly dear to a school-boy; and he was accustomed indeed at a later period of life, to declare with a countenance animated by a recollection perhaps of the happiest hours of his existence, that he was noticed by, and even adopted as the companion of the young men of the upper form, for whose amusement he wooed the Muses, and composed a *Drama* to be acted in their long chamber.

"At this seemly fortunate junction, however, two events of an untoward nature occurred; the one prejudicial to his fortune, the other to his health:—the first was the sudden death of Mr Norris, his benefactor,—the second, an *imposthume* formed upon his lungs. The former of these was in its nature irremediable; from the latter he found relief, by a critical discharge, yet he recovered his health slowly; and if he escaped from a *consumption*, it was but to be subject, during a large portion of his life, to an *asthma*.

"At the end of a period of nearly three years, Mr Porson, removed to Trinity-College, Cambridge, towards the close of 1777; and his fame having already preceded him he was received as a person of superior powers and endowments. Here again his memory assisted him in such a manner, that, like the admirable Crichton, of whom we have heard so much, and know so little, he soon obtained an astonishing proficiency in every branch of learning.

"Attracted partly by accident, and partly by the genius of the University, he began to cultivate sedulously his taste for the mathematics, for which his mind was admirably fitted. He is supposed to have been stimulated solely by the prospect of a Scholarship, the emoluments of which would have been not a little acceptable perhaps, considering his scanty means. But our student at length

betook himself irrevocably, and with all the intenseness of study peculiar to himself at that period, to classical learning,—a pursuit, in which he soon shone with unrivalled lustre, so as not only to eclipse all his competitors, but reflect great honor both on his College and the University, the honors of which now awaited him.

“In 1781, we find the name of Richard Porson of Trinity-College, inscribed as one of those, who had obtained a Craven-Scholarship,\* he having been elected by the Vice-Chancellor, the five Regii Professors, and the Orator. In 1782, he received one of the two *Gold-Medals*, conferred annually on those, who acquit themselves best in classical learning. In the course of the second year, but a little anterior in point of time, he was one of the Senior-Optimes, and had also taken a degree as Bachelor of arts. In 1785, he obtained the Degree of M. A., and began already to be considered as an eminent literary character, in consequence of his learned notes and annotations to a Greek Writer, who will be mentioned hereafter.

“Anterior to this, while a Junior Bachelor, he had been chosen a Fellow of his College in express opposition to the usual custom, that then prevailed, which is supposed to have been departed from on this occasion, out of respect to his transcendent talents and acquirements. This distinction, the emoluments attendant on which did not exceed £100 *per annum*, was not long enjoyed by him. It is ordained by the Statutes that at the expiration of seven years the fortunate candidate must either enter into Holy Orders, or resign; but, like some other great men, after the most deliberate investigation, he could not bring his mind to consent to subscription to the 39 Articles of the Church of England. Accordingly, after long and painful deliberation, he determined to sacrifice his interest to conscientious scruples;

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\* “The amount is only £25 *PER ANNUM*, and the restriction, in respect to residence, is so severe, that an absence of more than three months precludes the continuance of it.”

this was accordingly accomplished in 1791, and when it is considered that his fortune was in a great measure *still to seek*, it must be allowed to be an act equally noble and exemplary. A Lay-Fellowship might still have been held, without any impeachment of his integrity: but we have been told 'that the disingenuous conduct of an individual withheld from him that resource.'

"On this, with an impaired constitution, and a mind assailed, and perhaps a little ruffled by repeated mortifications, he took, as he imagined, an eternal farewell of his Alma Mater, and reluctantly repaired to the Capital, where he still led a kind of College-life, being for the most part entirely secluded from the bustle of the world, spending the whole of his time, partly in his own study, and partly in the libraries of his friends.

"In 1792, he was, however, recalled to Cambridge in the most honorable manner. By the demise of Mr W. Cooke, M. A. of King's College, who had held it during 12 years, the Greek Professorship became vacant, and the learned candidate, after delivering a Thesis on Euripides, was unanimously chosen by the seven electors.\* It appears that this, instead of being, according to the design of the founder, an efficient office, is a mere sinecure, and seems intended to remain so; for Mr Porson would have delivered an *Annual Course of Lectures* in the College, had rooms been allowed for that purpose.

"Three years after this he determined to settle in life, and accordingly in 1795, married Mrs Lunan, formerly Miss Perry, a lady born in Aberdeen, and sister to the Editor and Proprietor of the *Morning-Chronicle*, which Paper Mr Porson is supposed to have occasionally enriched with the lucubrations of his leisure hours.

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\* "DOCTORS of all faculties are excluded from this office, which is more honorable than profitable, being £40 PER ANNUM nominally, but in truth only £32. It was founded by HENRY VIII, in 1540. The names of FRANKLIN and LORT are to be found among Mr Porson's predecessors."

"After passing many years in a sedentary kind of life, but favorable to his health, sometimes at his chambers in Cambridge, and sometimes in Town, the Professor was at length elected Principal Librarian of the London-Institution,—a choice, which reflects great honor on the liberality and discernment of the managers. From that time he resided chiefly at their house in the City, and indeed died there.

"After this narrative of the life of Mr Porson, which has been purposely kept unbroken, we shall attempt a summary of his literary labors. These actually commenced at an early period, but were first made known to the public, while he was still an Under-graduate, in 1785, by the republication of Xenophon's *Anabasis* originally edited by Hutchinson at Oxford. To this work, by turns undertaken by *Members* of the two rival Universities, the attention of the learned world was of course turned, and he added notes, but without affixing his name to them; they relate chiefly to MSS., of which Hutchinson was either ignorant, or negligent.\* Those marked *W.* have been assigned to Mr Whiter, the Author of the *Etymologicum Magnum*.

"In 1790, a new edition of the very learned work, entitled *Emendationes in Suidam et Hesychium, et alios Lexicographos Græcos*, was published at the Clarendon Press. To this the Professor subjoined some critical notes, which were termed *Notæ Breves ad ΤΟΥΤΗΝ Emendationes in SUIDAM*, and *Notæ in Curas Novissimas*. These were never publicly acknowledged any farther than by the initials† of the learned Grecian.

"In the course of the same year, in which Mr Porson thus stood forward as an *Editor*, he distinguished himself by his celebrated controversial work, which was the first, that extended his reputation beyond the bounds of his own and the sister

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\* "They are introduced by a remarkable PREFACE, beginning, LECTORI SI QUIS ERIT."

† A. R. P. C. S. S. T. C. S.—A Ricardo Porson, Collegii Sacro-Sanctæ Trinitatis Cantabrigiæ Socio.

Universities, and spread his fame not only throughout Great Britain, but also over the Continent of Europe. It will be easily supposed that we now allude to the *Letters to Mr Archdeacon Travis in Answer to his Defence of the three Heavenly Witnesses*, I John 5, 7. This was his first regular avowed publication, and received, as it deserved, the hearty praise of Mr Gibbon; for the Author of the *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* was, doubtless, rejoiced to behold one of the most imperative of his antagonists thus humbled in the dust, 'by the most acute, accurate piece of criticism, which has appeared since the days of Bentley. The Author's strictures,' (adds he,) 'are founded in argument, enriched with learning, and enlivened with wit; and his adversary neither deserves, nor finds any quarter at his hands.'

"In 1793, he disdained not the humble, but useful office, of corrector of the press to a most beautiful edition of Heyne's *Virgil*. Prefixed to this will be found a short *Preface*, in which the modest Professor disclaims any other merit than a few conjectural criticisms by learned men, together with *Addenda* to the *Index*. This work was printed in London.

"Mr Porson was in possession of a copy of Pauw's edition of *Æschylus*, corrected throughout by himself. Having lent this to a gentleman, a surreptitious impression, somehow, most unaccountably found its way to the press. In 1795, a very beautiful small edition of the *Seven Tragedies* was published by the Foulis of Glasgow; and Schutz, having afterwards printed another in Germany, added Mr Porson's new readings, to which he at the same time prefixed a short introduction, replete with respect and acknowledgement.

"In 1797, appeared the *Hecuba* of Euripides, in one volume 8vo, with many emendations from MSS., to which were subjoined notes, and a learned vindication. This work was intended in part to try the temper of the times, and prepare the public mind for the appearance of the other *Plays* of the same Author; two more, accompanied in the same manner as before, accordingly made their appearance in succession; and soon after the publica-

tion of the first of these, the late Mr Gilbert Wakefield issued from the press his *Diatrise Extemporalis*, in which emendations are pointed out, and certain canons of criticism objected to, as not founded in propriety.\* He also published a new edition of the *Hecuba*, according to his own notion of the text.†

"It now only remains to add some remarks relative to the MS. copy of the *Lexicon* of the celebrated Photius, who became Patriarch of Constantinople, in 857, and died after his deposition, and during his confinement in a Monastery in the year 891. This valuable MS. appertains to Trinity-College, Cambridge, and was carefully transcribed for the press from the original, which had become nearly obliterated. After the incessant toil of ten long months, all the Professor's labors were frustrated by a fire, that occurred at the country-house of his brother-in-law, Mr Perry, at Merton, Surrey, in the flames of which the copy was consumed. Fortunately, he himself was absent, and having, from a point of honor, always carried the original along with him, it escaped destruction.‡ It is no small proof of his patience, and his industry, that on this occasion he sat down once more to the desk, and without a murmur, as we have been told, made a new transcript, equally beautiful as the former; we believe it was a complete *fac-simile*, and is now ready for the press. On this, as on many former occasions, the lessons of Mr Summers, the Village-school-master, proved serviceable, as has been already hinted; for, through his interposition, Mr Porson was enabled early in life to write a most beautiful text, by means of which he

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\* "This controversy was not attended with the usual asperity of polemics; for the learned Wakefield ends his *DIATRISSE* with the following classical apostrophe, VADE, AGE, ET INGENTEM FACTIS FER AD ÆTHERA TROJAM."

† "The Professor has left an *ORESTES* completed for the press." [since published.]

‡ "In the same fire were irretrievably lost, a *PLAY* of Æschylus, ready for the press, and several others in great forwardness."

could produce at will an admirable imitation of the original Author.

“The time had now arrived, when the Professor was destined to bid adieu to a world, in which his merits perhaps had never been either sufficiently noticed or rewarded, but in which, nevertheless, he had a great number of friends, and a multitude of admirers. It has already been noticed, that the Professor narrowly escaped from a *consumption* at an early period of life. In the spring of 1797, his wife, for whom he entertained a great regard, sunk under that disease, and he himself after that epoch was incessantly afflicted with a *spasmodic asthma*, which deprived the world of his labors during a period of nearly a dozen years. Amidst the crisis of this afflicting disorder, he was not only unable to go to bed, but actually obliged to abstain from all sustenance. This produced a general debility, which was followed in *September* last, by an intermittent fever. On that occasion he had recourse to his sovereign remedy, abstinence; for he had no predilection for medical men, and but little faith in the salutary effects of physic. He might, and doubtless would have recovered, had not two successive strokes of the apoplexy been superadded to the original disease, on *Monday* and *Tuesday, Sept. 19th* and *20th*. He languished after this until the night of *Sunday, the 25th*, when he expired without a struggle.\*

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\* “The body was opened in the presence of several medical men, and they have given a *REPORT*, ascribing his death ‘to the effused lymph in and upon the brain, which they believe to have been the effect of recent inflammation, The heart was sound, and the pericardium contained the usual quantity of lymph. The left lung had adhesions to the pleura, and bore the marks of former inflammation. The right lung was in a perfectly sound state.’ This is signed by Dr Babington, Sir Wm Blizard, Mr Norris, Mr Blizard, and Mr Upton. In refutation of an idle falsehood about the form of his skull, they add, ‘that it was thinner than usual, and of hard consistence.’

“Mr Porson has left a sister living, an amiable and accomplished woman. She is the wife of Siday Hawes Esqr, of Coltishall, in Norfolk. They have five children; the eldest is entered of St Benet’s College,

"As a writer, Professor Porson affected not a flowery language. His observations abounded with critical acumen, and were conveyed in a style terse, pointed, and decisive. He knew his own powers, and always used them with effect. Never aspiring after pensions or employments, his character was manly and independent; he both cultivated and inculcated a love of freedom, and was ever a strenuous supporter of the civil and religious liberties of his country. To strangers he appeared shy, clouded, and reserved; but in the company of his friends he was accustomed to unbend himself, and at times sacrifice to the *Rosy God*. But this arose from the love and ardor of literary discussion, rather than the love of wine; for it was remarked that it was totally indifferent to him on such occasions what he took,—whether it was wine or table-beer, or snuff. Whatever was before him he used indiscriminately, but he preferred table-beer before all other liquids. The enemies of his principles, and those envious of his fame, have endeavoured to convert an occasional indulgence, produced by a love of conversation, into a settled habit of debauch; but the charge is unfounded.\*

"In his person he was rather tall and thin; and his features, which at times would expand into a smile, clearly indicated his character.

"On the demise of this eminent Scholar, his College, by an unanimous vote of the board of priority, claimed the body, in order to be deposited in the Chapel of Trinity, near to the ashes of Bentley, whom he so much resembled. It was accordingly removed on *Monday, Oct. 3, 1808*, from the house of the London-Institution, in the Old-Jewry, where he died. The

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Cambridge. Henry, the second brother of the Professor, was settled in a farm in Essex, and died young, leaving three children. His brother Thomas, kept a boarding-school at Fakenham, he was an excellent scholar, and died in 1792, without issue. And his father, Mr Huggin Porson, died in 1805, in his 70th year. His mother died in 1784, aged 57."

[\* It is a lamentable fact that this charge is not unfounded: excess of drinking probably shortened Porson's days. EDITOR.]

procession from London consisted of four mourning coaches, followed by six private carriages; the persons, who attended him, were his relatives and most intimate friends.

"At half-past two o'clock on *Tuesday*-afternoon, &c. [*What follows is verbatim the same as in No II; see page 70 to* suffered by his death *p. 72.*]

"The following was the simple *Inscription*, engraved in brass on his coffin:—

RICARDUS. PORSON  
APUD. CANTABRIGIENSES  
LINGUÆ. GRÆCÆ. PROFESSOR  
ET  
COLL. TRIN. S. S. ET. IND. OLIM. SOC.  
APUD. LONDINENSES  
INSTITUTIONIS. LITTERARIÆ  
BIBLIOTHECARIUS. PRINCEPS  
NATUS. VIII. CAL. JAN. MDCCLIX.  
OBIIT. VII. CAL. OCT. MDCCCVIII."  
*The Monthly Magazine, Nov. 1808. p. 347.*

### III. FROM DR AIKIN'S GENERAL BIOGRAPHY.

"Porson, Richard, a very distinguished modern philologist, was born in *December*, 1759, at the Village of East-Ruston, in Norfolk. His father, though in the humble situation of Parish-Clerk, appears to have possessed a strong understanding; for he was attentive to exercise the minds of his children from the first dawning of reason, and he taught his eldest son Richard, to work all the common rules of arithmetic, up to extracting the cube-root, by the memory alone, before he was nine years of age. This practice of intense thinking, and regular arrangement, was probably the foundation, on which were built all those powers of retention and acute investigation, which rendered him so celebrated in after-life. It is worthy of remark also, that his

father, anticipating some later methods of instruction, taught him to read and write at the same time, by drawing the letter either with chalk on a board, or the finger in sand, and making him sound and copy it; the result was an extraordinary neatness and accuracy in imitating any kind of writing. Being sent, when nine years old, to a Village-school, which pretended to no more than reading English, writing, and arithmetic, his father, still intent on his improvement, obliged him to repeat to him by heart in the evening, all the lessons of the day in the exact order, in which he had performed them. A boy with uncommon natural parts, so educated, was likely to become a phenomenon in a country-village; and the clergyman, having heard of his singular capacity for study, took both him and his younger brother under his care, and instructed them in the Classics. His fame now spread throughout the whole district; and Mr Norris, a neighbouring gentleman of wealth and liberality, after a strict examination, determined upon sending him to Eton. This circumstance took place in his 15th year, and almost immediately upon admission into that distinguished seminary, he displayed a facility of acquisition, a quickness of perception, and a readiness of applying what he had read, which gave him a decided superiority among those of the same age, and introduced him to the society of the upper scholars. He was their resource in the performance of their tasks, and their adviser both on playful and serious occasions. The death of Mr Norris was the cause of severe mortification to him, though he was enabled by other liberal patrons to continue at Eton. In 1777, he was entered of Trinity-College, Cambridge. The first pursuit, in which he was engaged at the University, was mathematics, which he was at length induced to change for the classics, and in this branch he soon acquired undisputed pre-eminence. He gained the *Prize-medal* as a matter of course, and in 1781, was elected a Fellow of his College. He took the degree of M. A. in 1785. From this time he began to employ his critical abilities in contributions to various publications, but anonymously. In 1786, he gave

some *Notes* to an edition of Xenophon's *Anabasis*, published by Nicholson, a bookseller at Cambridge. In 1787, he communicated to the Delegates of the Clarendon-Press some *Notes* upon Toup's *Emendations of Suidas*, which were printed with that work in 1790. He sent various articles of criticism to different periodical works, among which were *Maty's* and the *Monthly-Review*, and the *Gentleman's Magazine*. In the latter first appeared some *Letters* on the contested text of I *John*, 5, 7. concerning the *Three Witnesses*, which he afterwards enlarged, and published separately, as *Letters to Archdeacon Travis*; and it is now generally allowed among the learned, that by his unrivalled combination of wit, argument, and profound erudition, he has finally decided the question of its authenticity in the negative. As in this controversy he took the side opposite to that adopted by the strictly orthodox, and in other cases shewed a propensity to freedom of opinion, it may be supposed that he regarded as an unpleasant shackle the obligation imposed by his Fellowship of taking Orders in the Church; accordingly, in 1791, when the time was come for making his election, he chose to surrender the Fellowship, rather than assume an office, for which he knew himself unfitted, though at the same time he had no other dependence for support than qualifications, the profit of which is the smallest possible in proportion to their credit in the world. He received in some degree a compensation for this sacrifice, by his unanimous election some time after to the Greek-Professorship at Cambridge, the salary of which indeed was only £40 a year; but it conferred a respectable title, and gave him an opportunity, of which it is said that he meant to avail himself, of advancing his own reputation, and that of the University, by *Lectures* in his department, but his intention was never fulfilled.

"In fact Porson, either from nature, or the operation of circumstances, possessed a disposition wholly adverse to that mental excitement, which calls talents into full action. A kind of misanthropical apathy, which rendered him indifferent to fame, and careless of applause, limited his exertions to the

suggestions of humor or caprice; and perhaps no man with the power to do so much, effected so little. That he was capable of the closest application, and the most sedulous attention, he undeniably proved by his actual performance; but his labor was often wasted upon trifling objects, and his attention was desultory. It must be added that his habits of life at length became such, as were altogether unsuitable to the regular occupations of a Scholar. For some time longer, however, he continued to favor the learned with the fruits of his extraordinary critical abilities. In 1797, was published in London, the *Hecuba* of Euripides, as the precursor of a meditated edition of all the *Works* of that Tragedian under his inspection. It was followed by the *Orestes* and the *Phænissæ*, all separately, and without his name. In 1801, the *Medea* appeared at Cambridge, with his name prefixed; and in 1802, a second edition of the *Hecuba*, with valuable additions. In the mean time he had been engaged in some other tasks, among which was the collation of the Harleian MS. of the *Odyssey* for the Grenville Homer. He had at an early period projected an improved edition of *Æschylus*, but various impediments had occurred in the execution of this design. At length in 1806, an edition of this Dramatist, 'stole into the world,' without his name, and deprived of many of its proposed advantages, yet containing many valuable fruits of his labor, particularly corrections of the text in more than 200 places. Before this period, however, he had ceased to be the man he once was. He had married in 1795, which circumstance might have reclaimed him to a regular life, but he had the misfortune of losing his wife two years after. On the establishment of the London-Institution, his friends procured him the post of its Principal Librarian, with a salary of £200 a year; but it may be affirmed that, besides the credit of his name, the Institution reaped no advantage from the appointment. His constitution now gave way rapidly, and his mental faculties underwent a correspondent decay. It is painful to dwell upon the last period of his life, which was terminated by an apoplectic attack in Nov. 1808, in the 49th year of his age

"The distinguishing intellectual qualities of Porson were, a most tenacious memory, united to extraordinary acuteness of discernment, and solidity of judgment; an union, which enabled him to become in the opinion, not only of his friends, but of the learned public in general, a verbal critic of the very first rank. 'In him was conspicuous,' says an intelligent panegyrist, 'boundless extent of reading,—a most exact and well-ordered memory,—unwearied patience in unravelling the sense of an author, and exploring the perplexities of a MS.,—perspicuity in discovering the corruptions of a text,—and acuteness, almost intuitive, in restoring the true reading.' With these qualities were joined that honesty and regard to truth, (less common among critics,) which made him scrupulously attentive to the claims of his author, and his critical predecessors, and careful not to admit emendations of a text without a decisive preponderance of evidence in its favor. His want of sensibility rendered him apparently indifferent to the higher beauties of literature; and his own taste seems to have pointed almost exclusively to the ludicrous, of which he sometimes indulged his friends with specimens of his own, too often with those of other people. His name will survive among scholars on account of the excellence of what he has performed, though their obligation to him might reasonably have been expected to be much greater."

(*Memoirs of PROFESSOR PORSON in the Athenæum.*)

DR AIKIN'S *General Biography*, (1815,) V. 10, p. 440.

[The article is signed A. to shew that it was written by himself. E. H. B.]

#### V. FROM J. SAVAGE'S LIBRARIAN.

"*An Account of the last Illness of RICHARD PORSON, A. M. PROFESSOR of GREEK in the UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE, and PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN of the LONDON-INSTITUTION.*

[With two Plates, engraved in FAC-SIMILE of the PROFESSOR'S Writings.]

[Several erroneous Accounts respecting the last illness of PROFESSOR PORSON, having appeared in various Periodical Publications, the Editor of the LIBRARIAN, is induced to insert the following correct Report of the last six days of the PROFESSOR'S life; and he does this with confidence, because he speaks only of what came under his own immediate observation, having

attended Mr Porson, from the morning after he was seized with a fit in the street to the time of his death.]

"Sunt adhuc curæ hominibus fides et officium; sunt qui defunctorum quoque amicos agant. PLIN. EP.

"On Tuesday-morning, the 20th of September, 1808, I read a paragraph in the Newspaper called the *British Press*, importing that about two o'clock the preceding afternoon,\* a gentleman had been found senseless in the street, and conveyed to a place of safety, in *Castle Street, St Martin's Lane*. I immediately went to the place mentioned, where I arrived about half-past eight, and found the gentleman alluded to, as I had expected from the description inserted in the Newspaper, to be MR PROFESSOR PORSON. I found him walking about the room, apparently extremely ill; he expressed much satisfaction at seeing me, and after a few words of inquiry with respect to his health, I desired he would allow me to call a coach, but he would not permit me to leave him, saying that he would rather walk and take one in the street. Accordingly we walked across the *King's Mews*, to the nearest stand of coaches at *Charing-Cross*, where we took one, and drove home to the OLD JEWRY.

"After we had got into the coach, and were going down the *Strand*, he began to speak of the fire, which had destroyed the Theatre in *Covent-Garden*, a few hours before, of which he had been informed, and was much affected at the account I gave him of the loss of lives and property in consequence of that melancholy accident. He afterwards spoke of his sudden attack in the

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\* "MR PORSON walked from the House of the LONDON-INSTITUTION, of which he was the PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN, about one o'clock on MONDAY-afternoon the 19th of SEPTEMBER, and about half past one called at MR PERRY's in the STRAND; but that Gentleman not being at home, he proceeded further, and was seized with a fit, which led to the melancholy catastrophe related in the sequel. He had complained for several days preceding of not being well, and said he had got the ague, but it appears that the hot and cold fits, which he considered as that complaint, were symptomatic of the disease, which afterwards terminated in his dissolution."

street, and congratulated himself on falling into honest hands, and particularly observed how fortunate he considered himself in not having had his gold-watch taken from him. In this way we proceeded along the *Strand* and *Fleet-Street*, conversing in the manner usual with him; for no person possessed a greater fund of pleasant and rational conversation. As we approached St PAUL's, he mentioned with much feeling, the ill treatment, which SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN, the Architect of that magnificent pile, had sustained in the latter part of his life, and observed that even in our own days, we were too apt to neglect modest, unassuming merit.

“ In this manner he continued to converse till we arrived at the House of the INSTITUTION in the OLD-JEWRY, which was about a quarter past nine. On getting out of the coach, his bodily debility was very considerable, but so far from the accounts in the Newspapers, and in the different publications alluded to, respecting the torpor of his mind at this time, being true, I did not perceive the least disorder in his mental faculties; for he had apparently the power of associating ideas as strongly as I ever knew him.

“ After walking up stairs to his apartments, which he did with some difficulty, he took his breakfast in his own room, which consisted of two cups of green tea and two small pieces of toast. Soon after this, he went down into the *Library*, where meeting with the REV. DR ADAM CLARKE, they entered into a conversation respecting a *Greek* inscription in the possession of the latter gentleman, which had been brought from the city of *Eleusis* in *Greece*. It was now that it appeared he had suffered a paralysis of the organs of speech, and his memory had evidently begun to fail, so that it became painful to converse with him; but what deserves to be particularly mentioned, is that, when he could no longer articulate his mother-tongue without considerable difficulty, and when he appeared to have from the deficiency of his memory nearly lost the power of translating the quotations he made from the *Greek* into *English*, (which was his usual custom in conversation, when he referred to any of the *Greek* or *Latin*

## BARKER'S ANECDOTES

*Classics*,) he could quote and speak *Greek* with all the fluency of his best days.

"On DR CLARKE taking leave of him, the PROFESSOR soon afterwards went up stairs into his own room, and stopping a short time, came down again apparently going out, when MRS SAVAGE observed to him, that she thought from his indisposition he would consult his own ease and quiet by remaining at home, and that she would provide him for dinner any thing, which he should prefer. With this he seemingly acquiesced, but as I am led to believe, the PROFESSOR fancied himself to be under some restraint, and to convince himself of the contrary, walked out, and soon after went into the *African* or *Cole's Coffee-House*, in *St Michael's Alley, Cornhill*, from which place he was brought home in a coach about half past five of the clock, considerably worse, and unable to speak otherwise than in short, broken sentences.

"On observing the state, which the Professor was now in, I stepped out for MR NORRIS, the Surgeon, one of his particular and intimate friends, who only lives a few doors from us. On his returning with me, MR N. and myself prevailed on him, with some difficulty, to allow us to assist him into bed. MR NORRIS then describing to me the dangerous state, that MR PORSON was in, I lost no time in making MR PERRY, his brother-in-law, acquainted with the circumstance, who that evening visited him, and certainly no friend evinced more tender regard than did that gentleman to the last of the PROFESSOR's life; indeed MR PORSON was peculiarly happy in the affectionate attention of his friends; the REV. DR RAINE, DR CHARLES BURNEY, MR FREND, MR NORRIS, &c. &c., attending him with the most anxious solicitude.

"DR BABINGTON was called to him at an early stage of his illness, but medicine proved of no other avail than to encourage hopes in the minds of the PROFESSOR's friends that he might recover. The effects of medical assistance served only to excite a portion of temporary stimulus to the already exhausted powers of nature, both bodily and mental, but every effort to revive brought on a progressive share of increasing debility. This went on from

*Tuesday*-evening to Sunday-morning the 25th of September, when all hopes of recovery were finally destroyed, and it was perceived by every person about the PROFESSOR, that he could not survive the ensuing night. This anticipation was too fully verified, for on Sunday-night, exactly as the clock struck twelve, I had the melancholy office of witnessing the last breath of this incomparable SCHOLAR.

“His friends considered it to be necessary that the body should be opened. Accordingly on *Tuesday*-morning after his decease, DR BABINGTON, SIR WILLIAM BLIZARD, MR NORRIS, MR THOMAS BLIZARD, and MR UPTON, attended for that purpose.

“Since the above was written, I have been favored by MR NORRIS with the following observations made by him at the commencement of MR PORSON’s illness, and of the appearance of the head and viscera on dissection.

“On *Friday, September* the 16th, I called to speak to MR PORSON about a book, and was shocked at his generally diseased appearance. I asked if he was not sensible of much indisposition; to which he replied that he had been ill for some time of *ague and fever*, but that he now thought himself better.

“His countenance was pale, his skin hot, his pulse quick and feeble, and his tongue white; I told him that I supposed his reason for using the term *ague*, was his having had cold fits succeeded by heat, to which he assented; that these symptoms were common to almost all fevers, however excited, that he was at that moment very seriously ill from a cause entirely different from what he imagined; and I concluded by begging him to send for my friend MR UPTON, who was just at hand, or for some physician of his own acquaintance. To this, however, he would not consent, as he said he was now better, but I so far prevailed as to obtain his promise to do what I desired the next morning, if he should not continue to improve. To a message, which I sent the next day, he returned for answer that he was better.

“I heard nothing more of him until the evening of *Tuesday*, the 20th, when MR SAVAGE came for me, and said that MR

PORSON had had a fit, as he believed, of epilepsy, and that he was much alarmed about him. I found Mr Porson sitting up, and staring about him, as if surprised. The only answer I could obtain to any question was, 'Well! How! What!' and he appeared to be utterly incapable of reasoning, or of comprehending what was said to him.

"In this state he was put to bed, and I sent immediate notice of his situation to his brother-in-law, MR PERRY, who soon arrived, and who continued to the last to pay him the kindest attention, with the most affectionate solicitude.

"A clyster was injected, and he was with difficulty made to swallow a pill, containing two grains of calomel; and some hours afterwards, a draft of infusion of senna and Epsom salt. These procured two or three copious motions, after which he brightened up, and for a short time seemed much relieved.

"DR BABINGTON and MR UPTON now saw him, when stupor had again returned, accompanied by such a state of general debility, as to preclude all idea of further evacuation. Blisters and sinapisms were applied, which procured transient relief, and it was endeavoured to support his strength by wine and cordial medicines, of which however very little was swallowed. He continued, with a few slight and short appearances of amendment, to grow weaker until *Sunday* night, when he died; having gradually lost the power of speech and sight, so that two days before his death, his eyes were perfectly insensible to the light of a candle.

"The following account of the appearances of the body on dissection was signed by DR BABINGTON, SIR WILLIAM BLIZARD, MR THOMAS BLIZARD, MR UPTON, and myself.

"On examining the body of Professor Porson, we observed the following appearances.

The body was emaciated.

The dura mater did not exhibit any unusual appearance.

Under the tunica arachnoides a clear fluid was seen to be generally diffused over the surface of the brain; and upon separating

the pia mater, lymph; to the quantity of about an ounce, issued from between the convolutions of the brain.

The brain was of an unusually firm texture, its cortical part was of a lighter colour, and its medullary part less white than is common.

The ventricles did not seem to contain more than one ounce of lymph, but upon removing the whole of the brain, at least an ounce and a half more lymph, remained at the basis of the skull.

The abdominal viscera did not present any thing particularly worthy of notice. The substance of the intestines, indeed, was unusually thick, as was that of the bladder; there was an adhesion of the omentum to the liver, and several more between it and the diaphragm; and in its peritoneal covering there was a small ossification. The pylorus was very narrow, but without disease. To none of these circumstances do we attach any consequence, as they do not appear to have had any share in producing death.

The heart was sound, and the pericardium contained the usual quantity of lymph.

The left lung had many adhesions to the pleura, and bore visible marks of former inflammation. The right lung was in a perfectly sound state.

From a due consideration of these circumstances, and of symptoms observed during the short period of his confinement, as well as of what we knew of his usual sedentary mode of living, we are of opinion that the effused lymph in and upon the brain, which we believe to have been the effect of recent inflammation, was the immediate cause of his death. It may also be observed that his health had been in a declining state during some months, so as to have been visible to his friends.

“It is very clear that during the indisposition, which he called *ague and fever*, a slow inflammatory action was going on within the head, the result of which was the effusion above noticed. The first effect of compression from this cause, that was noticed, was on *Monday*, the 19th of *September*, on which day he walked from

the OLD-JEWRY to the West-end of the town, when he fell in the street, and was taken in a state of insensibility into a neighbouring house, where he remained all night.

WILLIAM NORRIS.

*Old-Jewry, Nov. 21, 1808.*

"In giving a relation of the facts concerning the illness of MR PORSON, I cannot let the opportunity escape me, our official situations bringing us a good deal together, of lamenting in common with his most intimate friends, the loss of so pleasing and so valuable an acquaintance; for to the most gigantic powers of learning and criticism were united the manners of a gentleman, and the inoffensive habits of a child; and I am sorry to observe, in concluding this narrative, that, especially since the PROFESSOR'S decease, there should be found persons, who have used no common industry in representing his failings in such pointed terms, as totally to shade the numerous good qualities, which were inherent in his nature, so that it cannot but be remarked with pity, that those persons should be deficient in one of those excellent qualities, which he possessed in an eminent degree, *never speaking ill of any one*,—but Shakspeare has well observed, upon another occasion,

Men's evil manners live in brass, their virtues  
We write in water."

*"London-Institution,  
Dec. 1, 1808."*

J. SAVAGE'S *Librarian*, 1808, 8vo. V. 1. p. 274.

#### VI. FROM J. SAVAGE'S MEMORABILLIA.

"PROFESSOR PORSON.

"This eminent Scholar and acute Critic was born at EAST-RUSTON, in the County of NORFOLK, on the 25th of *December*, 1759. At a very early period he displayed talents, which gave promise of future excellence, and some gentlemen, who admired his acquirements in learning, sent him to ETON, from whence he was afterwards entered of TRINITY-COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE. The following account of MR PORSON, when an ETON boy, is extracted

from the evidence of DR GOODALL, the present PROVOST of ETON, given before the *Education-Committee* of the *House of Commons*.

“Dr Goodall being asked if he was acquainted with what happened to the late PROFESSOR PORSON to prevent his election to KING’S COLLEGE, replied as follows:

“Every account, that I have read about him, in relation to that circumstance, is incorrect. When he came to the school, he was placed rather higher by the reputation of his abilities, than perhaps he ought to have been, in consequence of his actual attainments; and I can only say that many of the statements in the *Life of Porson* are not founded in truth. With respect to prosody, he knew but little; and as to GREEK he had made comparatively but little progress, when he came to ETON. The very ingenious and learned editor of one account of him, has been mis-informed in most particulars; and many of the incidents which he relates, I can venture from my own knowledge to assert, are distorted or exaggerated. Even PORSON’S compositions, at an early period, though eminently correct, fell far short of excellence; still we all looked up to him in consequence of his great abilities and variety of information, though much of that information was confined to the knowledge of his schoolfellows, and could not easily fall under the notice of his instructors. He always undervalued school-exercises, and generally wrote his exercises fair at once, without study. I should be sorry to detract from the merit of an individual, whom I loved, esteemed, and admired; but I speak of him when he had only given the promise of his future excellence; and in point of school-exercises, I think he was very inferior to more than one of his contemporaries; I would name the present MARQUIS WELLESLEY, as infinitely superior to him in composition.

“On being asked whether he wrote the same beautiful hand as he did afterwards, DR GOODALL replied he did, nor was there any doubt of his general scholarship.

“To a question whether he made great progress during the time he was at ETON, or after he left? DR GOODALL said he was advanced as far as he could be with propriety, but there were

certainly some there, who would not have been afraid to challenge PORSON as a school-boy, though they would have shunned all idea of competition with him at CAMBRIDGE. The first book that PORSON ever studied, as he often told me, was CHAMBER'S *Cyclopædia*; he read the whole of that dictionary through, and in a great degree made himself master of the algebraic part of that work entirely by the force of his understanding.

"DR GOODALL was then asked if he considered there was any ground for complaint on the part of PORSON, in not having been sent to CAMBRIDGE, to which he answered No; he was placed as high in the school as he well could be; as a proof, however, of his merits, when he left ETON, contributions were readily supplied by ETONIANS in aid of SIR GEORGE BAKER'S proposal, to secure the funds for his maintenance at the UNIVERSITY.

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"In the year 1793, MR PORSON was elected PROFESSOR OF GREEK in the UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE, that office being then vacant by the death of PROFESSOR COOKE. The following letter relating to this election from MR PORSON to the REV DR POSTLETHWAYTE, MASTER of TRINITY-COLLEGE, is now first printed:

*"Essex Court, Temple, 6th October, 1792.*

"Sir,—When I first received the favour of your letter, I must own that I felt rather vexation and chagrin than hope and satisfaction. I had looked upon myself so completely in the light of an outcast from ALMA MATER, that I had made up my mind to have no farther connection with the place. The prospect you held out to me gave me more uneasiness than pleasure. When I was younger than I now am, and my disposition more sanguine than it is at present, I was in daily expectation of MR COOKE'S resignation, and I flattered myself with the hope of succeeding to the honour he was going to quit. As hope and ambition are great castle-builders, I had laid a scheme, partly as I was willing to think, for the joint credit, partly for the mutual advantage, of myself and the UNIVERSITY. I had projected a plan of reading

*Lectures*, and I persuaded myself that I should easily obtain a Grace, permitting me to exact a certain sum from every person who attended. But seven years' waiting will tire out the most patient temper, and all my ambition of this sort was long ago laid asleep. The sudden news of the vacant PROFESSORSHIP put me in mind of poor JACOB, who having served seven years in hopes of being rewarded with RACHEL, awoke, and behold it was LEAH!

"Such, Sir, I confess were the first ideas, that took possession of my mind. But after a little reflection, I resolved to refer a matter of this importance to my friends. This circumstance has caused the delay, for which I ought before now to have apologised. My friends unanimously exhorted me to embrace the good fortune which they conceived to be within my grasp. Their advice, therefore, joined to the expectation I had entertained of doing some small good by my exertions in the employment, together with the pardonable vanity, which the honour annexed to the office inspired, determined me; and I was on the point of troubling you, Sir, and the other electors with notice of my intentions to profess myself a candidate, when an objection, which had escaped me in the hurry of my thoughts, now occurred to my recollection.

"The same reason, which hindered me from keeping my FELLOWSHIP, by the method you obligingly pointed out to me, would, I am greatly afraid, prevent me from being GREEK PROFESSOR. Whatever concern this may give me for myself, it gives me none for the public. I trust there are at least twenty or thirty in the UNIVERSITY, equally able and willing to undertake the office; possessed, many, of talents superior to mine, and all of a more complying conscience. This I speak upon the supposition that the next GREEK-PROFESSOR will be compelled to read *Lectures*, but if the place remains a sinecure, the number of qualified persons will be greatly increased. And though it was even granted that my industry and attention might possibly produce some benefit to the interests of learning, and the credit of the UNIVERSITY,

that trifling gain would be as much exceeded by keeping the Professorship a sinecure, and bestowing it on a sound believer, as temporal considerations are outweighed by spiritual. Having only a strong persuasion, not an absolute certainty, that such a subscription is required of the PROFESSOR elect, if I am mistaken, I hereby offer myself as a candidate; but if I am right in my opinion, I shall beg of you to order my name to be erased from the boards, and I shall esteem it a favour conferred on, Sir,

Your obliged humble servant,

R. PORSON."

*Letter from the REV. JOSEPH GOODALL, D. D. Upper Master, (now Provost,) of Eton College, to MR PORSON.*

"*Eton, Nov, 16, 1806.*

"Dear PORSON,—THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER, (DR DAMPIER,) has written to me requesting my assistance on the following subject. 'On summing up matters, the OXFORD people find no account of the ETON MS. of STRABO, of which use has been made, and want one for their *Preface*.' Now the said BISHOP, urged by his brother of OXFORD, (DR RANDOLPH,) at the same time he hints that you have examined the MS. in question, advises me to enter upon the subject with you, which I most gladly do, praying for such information, as you may be disposed to give me, being fully persuaded that you are not likely to forget what you have once seen.

"I write to the BISHOP by this post to acknowledge my incompetence. How glad should MRS GOODALL and myself be, if you would take the trouble of inspecting the MS., and dating your kind communication from the ETON LIBRARY! Should you be a prisoner in — street, will you suffer me to bring the MS. to town about the middle of *December*, and then give me your opinion of its value, age, &c.? The Master of the CHARTER-HOUSE, (DR RAINE,) whom I hope soon to greet by some other title, will, I am sure, have the goodness to forward this petition to you.

"CHARLES HAYES, who, with his wife, is now on a visit to us, desires his kindest remembrance. MRS GOODALL is fatigued to

death with nursing a sick nephew and niece, and I am sorry to add that I am on the invalid list myself, but we hope to be all well in the course of a few days. She unites in every good wish with,

Dear PORSON,

Yours most faithfully,

J. GOODALL."

*From MR WILLIAM LAING of Edinburgh to MR PORSON.*

*Edinburgh, Jan, 3, 1807.*

"SIR,—The edition of *Herodotus* being now compleated after the plan you proceeded on, I have taken the liberty of dedicating it to you, which I hope will meet your approbation. MR DUNBAR, who has succeeded poor MR DALZEL, has paid the utmost attention to it. I shall order CUTHELL to forward a copy for your use. A selection has been made of the best notes from WESSELING; which with his *Index Rerum*, will make it very compleat. I return you my best thanks for the trouble you voluntarily undertook in promoting this speculation. I hope soon to see you in Town, and shall personally repeat my obligations.

"I am about to print a new and elegant edition of PINDAR, in two volumes, from HEYNE'S.—You see there is still some spirit for enterprise existing here.

"I hope all my little editions will possess beauty and correctness. I believe you have still a volume of *Herodotus*, which belongs to a person here, who wants it. Please deliver it to my son, who will call for it.

I remain, with the highest respect,

Sir, your very obedient Servant,

WILLIAM LAING."

*From DR CHARLES BURNEY to MR PORSON.*

*"Greenwich, June 20. 1808.*

"My dear PORSON,—My friends at CAMBRIDGE direct me to request you will go down as speedily as may be, to vote, and collect votes, for a degree of M. A. to be conferred on me. Now

though I know your objections to expeditions of such a nature, yet I cannot help intreating you, if you have not sound reasons against it, to go down and aid my cause.

"KAYE tells me that no time is to be lost. So if you can, pack up a small portion of wardrobe, and visit *Alma Mater*, so will you greatly oblige and favor

Yours affectionately, C. BURNEY."

*From DR DAVY, Master of Gonville and Caius College, CAMBRIDGE, to MR PORSON.*

"*Caius College, Tuesday, June 21, 1808.*

"My dear PORSON,—I take the liberty of telling you, in case it should affect any of your movements, that DR BURNEY's *Mandamus* will be voted for on *Friday* next, at two o'clock precisely. Every thing seems in his favor.

Yours most truly, M. DAVY."

*From THOMAS TYRWHITT, ESQ. to MR JAMES PERRY, Morning-Chronicle Office, Strand.*

"*Carlton-House, Febr. 12, 1805.*

"Dear SIR,—Do pray at your convenience inform me of the address of MR PORSON, as some papers have been found in the collection of the late SIR WILLIAM HAMILTON respecting the *Papyri*, which are very interesting; and several MSS. so clearly written out, as to be ready for the opinion of MR PORSON, the only person in my opinion fit to inspect them in the whole kingdom.

Your very faithful and obedient Servant,

THOMAS TYRWHITT."

*From PROFESSOR PORSON to JAMES SAVAGE, (Librarian, 1, 274.)*

"*Little Hermitage, near Rochester, July 31, 1807.*

"SIR,—Having been somewhat indisposed, I have unavoidably put off my return; but now I expect, if no relapse intervenes, to

revisit the OLD-JEWRY next *Monday*, and I am, with due compliments to MRS SAVAGE,

Your humble Servant,  
R. PORSON."

*Mr Savage, London-Institution,  
No 8, Old-Jewry, London.*

#### VII. DR ADAM CLARKE'S NARRATIVE.

" *A Narrative of the Last Illness and Death of* RICHARD PORSON, A. M. PROFESSOR of GREEK &c *by* A. CLARKE LL.D. PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN of the SURRY INSTITUTION

' Τμνητὸς οὗτος ἀνὴρ γίγνεται σόφοις. PIND. *Pyth.* X.

———— *At ingenium ingens*

*Inculco latet hoc sub corpore.* HOR. *Sat.* III.

*Multis ille quidem flebilis occidit.* HOR.

[*London, 1808. 8vo. pp. 32.*]

"ADVERTISEMENT.\*

"Several causes have concurred to induce me to lay this memorial before the friends and literary acquaintances of the late PROFESSOR PORSON: 1st. My high esteem for him as a *scholar*; 2d. The desire of several of his and my own friends, who heard of my interview with him, to neither of whom I could refuse any reasonable request; 3d. The incorrect, not to say false and uncandid accounts handed about in different daily publications; and 4th. Because his last conversation with *me* alone, and the *principal* subject of it, the annexed GREEK *Inscription*, is in my *possession* only.

"For the circumstances immediately preceding and subsequent to his apoplectic seizure, I have been indebted to different sources

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\* My copy of the NARRATIVE bears on the title, in the learned author's own hand-writing:—"From the author to the SURRY-INSTITUTION—only 50 printed." It should seem that the INSTITUTION accepted and sold the identical copy given to it by the author! E. H. B.]

of authentic information; but am chiefly obliged to MR SAVAGE, Clerk to the LONDON-INSTITUTION,—a gentleman, whose good sense enabled him to form a correct judgment on the different incidents, which fell under his notice, and whose esteem and affection for the PROFESSOR led him to interest himself in the tenderest manner in every thing that concerned him, and especially at the momentous period, of which these pages treat. As to the *conversation* between the PROFESSOR and myself, I hope I may say that it is literally correct, as I wrote it down carefully a short time after it took place. It is of no mean consequence to have even the least scintillations of so eminent a genius preserved. To none, therefore, of his friends, can even this imperfect account be destitute of interest.

ADAM CLARKE."

SURREY-INSTITUTION,

October 25, 1808.

"A NARRATIVE, &c.

"On *Monday, Sept. 19, 1808*, about one o'clock P. M., the late PROFESSOR PORSON left the LONDON-INSTITUTION in the OLD-JEWRY, where he resided, and of which he was the PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN, and proceeded to his brother-in-law's MR PERRY, in the STRAND, where he arrived at about half past one. Not finding MR PERRY at home, he proceeded farther, and was shortly after seized in the street with an apoplectic fit, which totally deprived him of the use of his speech, his senses, and all voluntary motion. As his person was utterly unknown to those, who first found him in that state, and as there was nothing even in his pocket-book, which could lead those strangers to find out who he was, they carried him to a contiguous *Watch-house*, where he lay for some time, but as no one happened to come that way, who could identify his person, he was carried to the *Work-house*, in *Castle-street, St Martin's Lane*, where medical assistance was immediately administered. As he had the misfortune to be wholly unknown here also, it was thought most advisable to send a correct

description of his person to some of the Morning papers, that his friends might be apprised of his situation. Accordingly the following description was sent to the *British Press*, Tuesday, September the 20th.

“Yesterday about two o'clock a gentleman was found senseless in the street, and conveyed by one of the Beadles of the Parish to *St Martin's Watch-house*, and from thence to the Work-house, where he remained in the same state at a late hour last night. He had a gold watch in his pocket, a trifling quantity of silver, and a memorandum book, the leaves of which were filled chiefly with GREEK lines written with a pencil, and partly effaced, two or three lines of LATIN, and an algebraical calculation. The GREEK extracts were principally from ancient medical works. It is hoped this description will be the means of his being traced by his friends. He is a tall man, apparently about forty-five years of age, and dressed in a blue coat with black breeches.’

“On the arrival of the Paper in the morning at the news-room of the INSTITUTION, the account was first seen by MR SAVAGE, who knowing that MR PORSON had not slept at home the preceding evening, which was rather an unusual case, was convinced from the description that *he* must be the person intended. Mr Savage immediately proceeded to *St Martin's Lane*, where he found the PROFESSOR, a little recovered and feebly walking about in the room. It may be naturally supposed that, especially in such circumstances, he was highly pleased to see a person, at whose table he had long boarded, and with whom he had lived upwards of two years in the habits of friendship. After a few words exchanged, chiefly in relation to the state of his health, MR SAVAGE proposed to call a coach, but this the PROFESSOR would not permit; therefore at his express desire, they walked across the *King's Mews* to *Charing-Cross*, where they took one, and drove towards the house of the LONDON-INSTITUTION. On the way, he began to lament the loss of lives and property, which had taken place that morning

in the burning down of *Covent-Garden Theatre*, and several adjoining houses, and afterwards, referring to his late seizure in the street, he congratulated himself on falling into the hands of honest men, and particularly observed, how fortunate he was in not having had his gold watch taken from him. During their passage along the STRAND and down *Fleet-Street*, he conversed in his usual pleasant and instructive manner, without affording the smallest evidence that his mental faculties had sustained any serious damage by his late seizure. Indeed he appeared from Mr Savage's account, to have the whole compass of his mind in action, so that he could notice every occurrence, and make it a subject of instruction and entertainment. He gave full proof of this on approaching *St Paul's*; when with great feeling he mentioned the case of Sir Christopher Wren, the architect of that magnificent pile, and 'deplored the ill treatment he had received in the latter part of his life;' thence taking occasion to observe, 'that even in *our own days*, when literature and usefulness could be better estimated, the public were too apt to neglect modest unassuming merit.' I mention these things the more particularly, because I wish to counteract a false statement which has gained considerable currency, viz. that he had no return of the proper exercise of his reason from the time of his seizure in the street; and that his intellects had been much impaired even a considerable time before that period. That his prodigious memory had failed a little for some months past, I had myself noticed, and spoken of it with regret to some of my friends: but neither then, nor at the time of which I am now writing, could any other symptom of mental decay be discerned. What follows will probably appear a sufficient proof that he was not only in possession of his ordinary faculties, but that his critical powers were vigorous, and capable of embracing and discerning the nicest distinction.

"About a quarter past nine, they reached the house of the Institution, and he appeared then to be considerably fatigued, and his strength greatly prostrated, so that he walked up stairs with much difficulty. Mrs Savage having requested his permission to

prepare him some breakfast, he consented, and drank two cups of green tea, which he always preferred, and ate two small pieces of toast, and soon after walked down into the *Library* of the Institution.

“Having that morning occasion to call at the Institution, to consult an edition of a work, to which the course of my reading had obliged me to refer, on returning from one of the inner rooms, I found that since my entrance, Mr Porson had walked into that room, through which I had just before passed; I went up to him, shook hands, and seeing him look extremely ill, and not knowing what had lately happened, I expressed both my surprise and regret. He then drew near to the window, and began in a low, tremulous, interrupted voice, to account for his present appearance; but his speech was so much affected, that I found it difficult to understand what he said. He proceeded, however, to give me as well as he could, an account of his late seizure, and two or three times, with particular emphasis, said, ‘I have just escaped death.’—

“When he finished his account of the apoplectic fit, into which he had lately fallen, and on which he seemed unwilling to dwell, except merely to satisfy my inquiries, he suddenly turned the conversation, by saying, ‘Dr Clarke, you once promised, but probably you have forgotten, to let me see the Stone and Inscription, which was brought from Eleusis.’ I replied, ‘I have not, Sir, forgotten, my promise, but I am now getting a facsimile of the stone and Inscription engraved, and hope soon to have the pleasure of presenting you with an accurate copy.’ To which he answered, ‘I thank you; but I should rather see the stone itself.’ I said ‘Then, Sir, you shall see it, when will you be most at leisure? and I shall wait upon you at the Institution, and bring the stone with me. Will to-morrow do?’ After considering a little, he said, ‘On Thursday morning, about eleven o’clock: for at that time of the day, I am generally in the Library in my official capacity.’ This time was accordingly fixed, though from his present appearance I had small hopes of being gratified with that

luminous criticism, with which, I well knew, he could illustrate and dignify even this small relique of Grecian antiquity.

"It may be necessary here to state, that about twelve months ago, when this stone came into my possession, (see the subsequent account,) I took a copy one morning of the Inscription to the Institution to shew it to the Professor:—He was not up, but one of the Sub-librarians carried it to his room; he looked at, and was much pleased with it, 'as affording a very fair specimen of the Greek character, after the time that Greece fell under the Romans.' 'For it was evident,' he said, 'that the Inscription was not prior to that period.' Some days afterwards I met him in the Library of the Institution; and he surprised me by saying, 'I can shew you a printed copy of the inscription on your stone.' He then led me up stairs to his study, and taking down Meursius's *Thesaurus*, shewed me in the tract *De Pagis Atticis*, at the end, the very Inscription which had been taken down from the stone then at Eleusis, by Dr Spon, in 1676! From this time he wished particularly to see it, as by it the existence of the village Besa, and the proper method of writing it with a single S to distinguish it from a village called Bissa in Locris, was confirmed; and he considered the character to be curious. This gratification both to himself and me, was denied, as I had little time, except pretty early in the morning, and then I could never find him in the way.

"But to return from this digression. After having fixed Thursday morning to wait upon him with the stone, I approached the table, and took up the 4to edition of Dr Shaw's *Travels*, and unfolding the plate containing the *Lithostroton Palæstrinum*, \* said 'I wish just to look at the title of this plate, as I have got a copy of it collated with that in Montfaucon, engraved for a work which I am just now about to publish.' Whether this part of Dr Shaw's work had ever attracted his notice before, I cannot

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\* "The LITHOSTROTON PALÆSTRINUM, is a Mosaic pavement found in the Temple of Fortune, in the ancient PALESTRINE, now PRENESTE in ITALY.

tell ; but seeing several words in the uncial Greek character, interspersed through the plate, he appeared particularly struck with the name of an animal of the *Lutra* species, there denominated *ΕΝΗΤΑΡΙΣ*, where the  $\eta$ , eta, evidently serves as an aspirate to the  $\upsilon$ , upsilon ; and immediately observed, 'If this be authentic, here is an additional proof that the  $\eta$ , eta, was anciently used and pronounced as we do our H.' I replied it certainly was; and as to the authenticity of the Prænestine Pavement, I believe it could not reasonably be called in question.

"He seemed to wish to converse further on the subject, though his speech was greatly affected, so that he was a long time before he could complete a sentence, not only because of the paralytic affection of all the organs of speech, but also through extreme debility, and the dryness of the tongue and fauces, his lips being parched so as almost to resemble a cinder. Though I wished to hear his remarks, yet feeling a desire to save him from the great pain he appeared to have in speaking, I would have withdrawn, but felt reluctant on account of his appearing pleased with my visit. I endeavoured, therefore, to change the conversation, in order to divert him as much as possible from feeling the necessity of any mental exertion ; and taking occasion, from the remark he had made on the power of the  $\eta$  in the *ΕΝΗΤΑΡΙΣ*, I observed, that I had noticed a very curious peculiarity in the formation of an *omega* on my ELEUSINIAN Stone ; 'It resembles' said I 'a *kappa*, lying on its left perpendicular limb, with a semicircle drawn between the two arms on the left, thus—making the form with my pen on a piece of paper. I then asked him, if he had noticed this form of the *omega* in any ancient *Inscription* ? He said, 'No ; but it may serve to form a system from : ' and then began to relate with considerable pleasantry, the story of the critic, who having found some peculiarity in writing one of the tenses of the verb *γράφω*, made an entire *new person* of it ; I said, 'I wish the system-makers, especially in literature, would have done, as they are continually perplexing and retarding science and embarrassing one another.' To this he answered, 'Your wish is the wish of *all*, and yet each

this from his coming into the Coffee-house, his head lay down on his breast, he was continually muttering some thing but in so slow and indistinct a tone, as not to be audible; but after taking the wine he seemed a little revived, and was able to hold his head more erect. Mr L. then pressed him much to have some dinner, but he declined it shaking his head. As he appeared to be much exhausted and very cold, Mr L. ordered a jelly to be put in a wine glass of warm water, with a very little brandy in it, and begged him to drink it: he refused at first, but on Mr Leigh's entreaties, and assuring him it would do him much good, he took the tumbler, drank about two spoonfuls of it, and returned the glass. He seemed now considerably roused, but would make no answer to several questions addressed to him by Mr L. except these words, which he repeated probably twenty times; 'The gentleman said it was a ludicrous piece of business, and I think so too.' These words he uttered in so low a tone, that Mr L. was obliged to put his ear nearly to his mouth in order to hear them. 'Not thinking,' says Mr L., 'that a Coffee-house was a proper place to witness the wreck of so great a mind, I ordered a coach to be brought to take him to the Institution.' He refused for some time to go into the coach, but at last was helped in by the landlord; and the waiter accompanied him home. When they came to the OLD-JEWRY, the waiter asked him where they should stop? he then put his head out of the window, and waved with his hand when they came opposite to the door of the Institution. The waiter says that, previous to this, he appeared quite senseless all the way, and did not utter a word. How quick the transition from the highest degree of intellect to the lowest apprehensions of sense! On what a precarious tenure does frail humanity hold even its choicest and most necessary gifts! Where then is boasting? it is excluded. Infinite wisdom alone is subject neither to change nor decay.

"On his arrival, Mr Savage observing that he looked much worse, and that he could not articulate any word plainly, ran off to Mr Surgeon Norris, one of the Professor's most intimate

friends, who coming immediately, and finding him alarmingly ill, with great difficulty persuaded him to permit himself to be undressed and put to bed. Mr Perry, his brother-in-law, was immediately sent for, who that evening visited him, and felt for him then and to the last, with a solicitude, which the tenderest friendship alone could excite. Dr Babington was also called in, but even *his* skill was in vain. 'The effect,' says one who was present, 'of medical exertion served to infuse a portion of stimulus into the almost exhausted powers of nature; but every new attempt to revive, only brought on its succeeding share of increasing debility.'

"On Friday-morning, Sept. 23, I called at the Institution, and had the pleasure to hear, that he was then more collected than he had been at any time since Tuesday evening. I went into his room, and on Mr Savage saying, 'Dr C. is come to see you, Sir,' I drew close to his bedside, and asked him how he did? He fixed his eyes on me at first with a wild and vacant stare, and seemed to labor to recollect me. At last he recognised me, but was too much exhausted to speak, though he appeared comparatively sensible. Mr Savage then coming close to him, said, 'Mr Porson, your head does not lie comfortably, I must alter it a little'; to which he replied, 'It is of no consequence.'

"He continued sinking till Sunday-morning, the 25th, when even his friends were obliged to relinquish all hopes of his recovery; it was then too plainly seen, that he could not possibly survive the ensuing night. This anticipation of his dissolution was too fully verified; for on Sunday night, exactly as the clock struck twelve, with a profound groan, unaccompanied with any struggle, he breathed his last. Thus untimely fell, in the 49th year of his age, Mr Richard Porson, a prodigy of intellect, learning, and memory, such as, probably, cannot be paralleled in Europe at this day.

"By the advice of his friends, it was judged expedient to open the body. Accordingly, on Tuesday morning, Sept. 27th, Dr Babington, Sir Wm Blizard, Mr Norris, Mr. T. Blizard, and Mr Upton, apothecary, of Coleman-street, (who attended the

Professor during his illness with all the solicitude and anxiety of friendship,) attended for that purpose; and the substance of which, as the Newspapers state, is as follows, for I have not been able to see the original:—The heart was sound, and the pericardium contained the usual quantity of lymph; the left lung had adhesions to the pleura, and bore the marks of former inflammation, (probably occasioned by an imposthume, that was supposed to have been formed on his lungs, when he was a student at Eton School). The right lung was in a perfectly sound state. On, and in the brain, they found a quantity of effused lymph, the effect of recent inflammation, to which they ascribed the cause of his death. It may surprise many to find, from the medical Report, that a person who had lived so freely as Mr Professor Porson, should have had viscera in such a sound and healthy state, especially as he had long been greatly afflicted with a spasmodic asthma; but this healthy state of the viscera may be attributed to his general abstinence from ardent spirits, which I am assured he very rarely drank, and scarcely ever to excess. Two widely contradictory reports relative to his skull, have been circulated among the public. One, that it was uncommonly thick, the other, that it was thin as paper; both these accounts are equally false. On examination, I believe, it was found much like those of other men. It was, however, oddly stated in one of the public Papers, that his skull was thinner than usual, and of hard consistence; and this statement has been as strangely attributed to gentlemen, whose profession certainly qualifies them both to discern accurately, and describe correctly; but the subject, be it as it may, is of little importance.

“Mr Savage, who has obliged me with several facts relative to the last days of this great man, concludes his account in the following words:—

“‘In communicating these facts relative to the illness of Mr Porson, I cannot let this opportunity escape me, our official situations bringing us a good deal together, without being allowed to lament in common with his best and most intimate friends, the

loss of so pleasant and agreeable an acquaintance. For, to the manners of a gentleman, and the most gigantic powers of learning and criticism, he joined the inoffensiveness of a child; and I cannot help wishing that some persons, who have, (with no common industry, especially since his decease,) been active in bringing his faults before the world, had been endowed with a small portion of some of his good qualities, one of which, among many others, was, never to speak evil of the moral character of any man.

"On the subject of the Professor's moral and literary character my plan prohibits me from going into particulars. As a simple narrative of the last week of this eminent man's life, including the last literary conversation he held, ascertained in my mind the limits of these pages, therefore any detailed account of his virtues and failings could not make a part of this outline: justice, however, requires me to say, in concluding, that the luminous disk of this vast sun of science and literature was often partially obscured by spots, which all his friends and acquaintances saw and deplored, and which the most partial to his person and memory will not attempt to deny.

"That he possessed many excellent, and some rare moral qualities, those, who were most intimately acquainted with him, well know. By these and his literature, posterity may reap profit; to expose his failings can gratify no benevolent mind; let them find a common covering with his mortal remains: He alone, who is infinitely just, and at the same time merciful, fills the judgment-seat.

"There was not a man of his acquaintance, I think I may safely assert, who revered Professor Porson more than I did; every production of his pen, and every conversation I had with him, only served to deepen the conviction in my mind, that he was the greatest Scholar of his day. At the same time I deplored his irregular mode of living, as tending to injure a constitution already sunk low by his obstinate asthma, and to deprive the world of much of the benefit, which it might have otherwise derived, from

a proper use of his vast talents and erudition. Even by his comparatively partial exertions the Republic of Letters has been enriched and dignified; and from his papers many invaluable remains may be expected. As a Scholar his name is imperishable, and his shadow will be extended to the latest revolutions of time.

"To draw his character, requires a mind similar to his own; I shall therefore leave this task to his biographers, and heartily wish they may be of a class widely differing from those, who have already come forward through the medium of the public Papers. From such, a very few excepted, may heaven forefend both religion, and the Professor's fame!

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*"The following short Character, taken from a Cambridge Paper, will doubtless be acceptable to most of the readers of this Narrative.*

"Died on Sunday night, at his apartments in the Old-Jewry, Richard Porson, M. A. of Trinity-College, and Greek-Professor in the University of Cambridge. To the departed names of Bentley, Dawes, and Markland, whose classical acquirements so eminently maintained the reputation of this University, we must now add, with heartfelt regret, the name of this admirable Scholar. In variety of information, in depth of learning, he fully equalled his great master Bentley, while in critical acumen he far outstripped him. In the happiness and sagacity of his conjectural emendations, the Professor had no equal. His Letters to Archdeacon Travis display the keenness and accuracy of his researches, and were considered by an able judge as the first critical productions since the memorable controversy concerning the Epistles of Phalaris. Considering his great acquirements, it may perhaps be said that he has not left much, by which posterity may judge him; but what was said of Cotes, is equally true of the professor, *Pauca quidem—sed egregia, sed admiranda!* Every lover of Grecian literature, every real scholar, will appreciate the labors of Porson, not by their number but by their magnitude. In the few plays of Euripides, which he edited, they will feel and acknowledge the unshaken excellencies of the canons he has introduced; they will perceive

what is necessary to the formation of a true and genuine Critic ; and they will unite in deploring that a better portion of vigorous health was not allotted to one, from whom alone they could expect a solution of every difficulty in the progress of their classical researches."

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"By the kindness of C. Butler, Esq., I am favored with an Algebraical Problem, written by Professor Porson a few days before his death. It appears to be the same with that in his memorandum-book, mentioned page 42, as the professor wrote it down from that memorandum-book at Mr Butler's request :—

no. 38

$xy$  plus  $zu$  equals 444

$xz$  plus  $yu$  equals 180

$xu$  plus  $yz$  equals 156

$xyz$  equals 5184

From a conversation he had at this time with Mr Butler, it appears he had meditated a new edition of the Arithmetica of Diophantus ; and some further work on the disputed text, 1 John, 5, 7, as he found that the argument in favor of its authenticity, drawn from the Confession of Faith, delivered by the African Clergy in 484, to Hunneric, King of the Goths, had not, in the opinion of many, yet got a satisfactory answer.

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*"Some Account of the Ancient Inscription found at Eleusis.*

*Mentioned p. 109.*

"Sometime in the year 1807, a young gentlemen, surveying some old buildings in the North-Green, Worship-street, observed a piece of marble, with certain letters on it, forming a part of the pavement of a back kitchen. His curiosity led him to examine it more narrowly, and finding that it had a Greek Inscription on it, he asked the person, who was the present tenant, to permit him to take it up, and he would put one in its place, that would answer the same purpose much better ; for they had used this stone to chop wood on, it being the most solid part of their pavement, in consequence of which it was broken nearly across the middle, as

appears in the fac-simile. Though his request was not then granted, the stone was taken up and sent to him the next day, and he presented it to me.

"It has already been noticed, that Meursius, who has borrowed his tract *De Pagis Atticis* from Spon, (which he has inserted at the conclusion of his *Theseus*, 4to. 1684.) gives, p. 10. of that tract, the very Inscription, which appears on this stone. On having recourse to the work of Spon, entitled, *Voyage d' Italie, de Dalmatie, de Grece, et du Levant, fait aux Annees 1675, 1676, par Jacob Spon, Docteur, etc. et George Wheler, Gentilhomme Anglois, a Lyon, 1678, 4 tom. 12mo.* we find that in 1676, the learned author saw this stone at Eleusis; for in vol. iii, p. 102, he gives the Inscription in modern Greek characters, which in the orthography and collocation of words is exactly the same as it appears in the fac-simile, and of course in the original, and accompanies it with a note, which it appears, from the conversation mentioned p. 10, Professor Porson had seen; for what book had he not seen and read? Spon's note is as follows: "*Bisa* de la tribu Antiochide. Elle se doit écrire avec une S simple, pour la distinguer de *Bissa* de Locride, comme le remarque Strabon, auquel les Inscriptions sont conformées."

"In confirmation of the existence of this village, and the proper mode of orthography, Spon in the first place gives the following Inscription:

...NOT...  
ΣΤΡΑΤΟΝΙΚΗ  
ΕΚ ΒΗΣΑΙΕΩΝ  
ΤΟΙΝ ΘΕΟΙΝ  
ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΟΣ.

"And next follows the Inscription represented on the annexed fac-simile.

"He mentions the same village in vol. ii. p. 205. and gives another Inscription, which he found at Athens, which bears a very striking resemblance to that on the Eleusinian Stone, and which appears to designate the person, whose statue is upon the pedestal

from which the Inscription is taken. The Inscription is the following:

**ΦΙΛΟΠΑΠΠΟΣ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΟΥΣ  
ΒΗΣΑΙΕΤΣ.**

"Spon considers this as a monument erected to the honor of the Roman Consul Caius Julius Antiochus Philopappus. The statue of the Consul is sitting in a niche, at the feet of which is found the above Inscription.

"Professor Porson observed that the Inscription found on the Eleusinian Stone, was posterior to the subjugation of Greece by the Romans: this the mixture of the Roman with the Greek name proves; Tiberius and Claudius are Roman; Theophilus and Themistocles are Greek; some generations had passed since the mixture of those names, for Tiberius Claudius, who is also called Theophilus, from his Greek extraction, is the son of Tiberius Claudius, who is called Themistocles, either from his father or some other Greek ancestor.

"But the name Tiberius Claudius presumptively proves that the Stone was not engraved prior to the reigns of the Emperors Tiberius and Claudius; and it is possible it might have been done during the reign of the latter, though most likely, after the first century of the Christian era.

"But how could this Stone, seen at Eleusis in 1676, find its way to London? And how, from having been so much valued by some antiquarians as to be brought from Greece to England, should it at last become so degraded as to make part of the pavement of a back-kitchen, in so very obscure a place as North green, Worship-street?

"To answer these questions at this distance of time would be extremely difficult. We find that Sir George Wheeler, or Wheler, accompanied Dr Spon in his travels through Greece; and we know, that shortly after he returned and settled in England. Possibly he might have brought the Stone in question with him. Dr Chandler, who travelled over the same ground about a hundred years after, did not meet with this Stone; though he sought for,

and copied, every ancient Inscription, which remained in the countries, through which he passed. The Stone, therefore, was probably removed before this time. An Inscription, relative to the same family and village, if not to the same person, he met with and copied at Athens; the reader may find it in the *Inscriptiones Antiquæ*, p. 57, Inscr. 37, which, because of its affinity to the accompanying fac-simile. I shall here set down :

[TIBE]PIONK[Λ]ATAIONTIBEPLOT  
[KAA]TAIOTAIOTEIMOTTIONΘEOΦIAON  
BHΣAIA.

“Tiberius Claudius Theophilus, on the Eleusinian Stone, is the son of Tiberius Claudius Themistocles; but on the Stone, which Dr Chandler copied, he is the son of Tiberius Claudius Diotimus. Probably this was a surname of T. C. Themistocles, and thus both Inscriptions may refer to the same person. Still, however, the history of the Stone is a secret. Where it hath been laid up, or by whom possessed for a long series of years, it is useless to conjecture. At last however it appears to have fallen into the hands of some person, who, knowing nothing of its value as a relique of Grecian antiquity, put it down in his back-kitchen to supply the place of some worn-out brick, where it seems long to have served the double purpose of a paving-stone and a chopping-block !

“There is nothing very remarkable in the form of any of the letters, except the Omega and the Omicron. The former I have already noticed, and the latter is also worthy of regard, as its size in reference to the other letters, is so expressive of its name, it being much less in proportion than any of the other characters on the Stone; this, though not frequent, is sometimes seen in very ancient Inscriptions.”

#### VIII. FROM CHALMERS'S BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY.

“Porson, Richard, a late eminent Greek Scholar, and most accomplished Critic, was born at East-Ruston, in Norfolk, Dec. 25, 1759, and was first initiated in knowledge by his father, Mr Huggin Porson, the Parish-Clerk of East-Ruston, who, though in

humble life, and without the advantages himself of early education, laid the basis of his son's unparalleled acquirements. From the earliest dawn of intellect, Mr Porson began the task of fixing the attention of his children, three sons, and a daughter; and he had taught Richard, his eldest son, all the common rules of arithmetic, without the use of a book or a slate, pen or pencil, up to the cube-root, before he was nine years of age. The memory was thus incessantly exercised; and by this early habit of solving a question in arithmetic, he acquired such a talent of close and intense thinking, and such a power of arranging every operation, that occupied his thoughts, as in process of time to render the most difficult problems, which to other men required the assistance of written figures, easy to the retentive faculties of his memory. He was initiated in letters by a process equally efficacious, and which somewhat resembled Dr Bell's admirable plan:—His father taught him to read and write at one and the same time. He drew the form of the letter either with chalk on a board, or with the finger in sand; and Richard was made at once to understand and imitate the impression. As soon as he could speak, he could trace the letters; and this exercise delighting his fancy, an ardor of imitating whatever was put before him, was excited to such a degree, that the walls of the house were covered with characters, delineated with great neatness and fidelity.

“At nine years of age, he, and his youngest brother Thomas, were sent to the Village-School, kept by a Mr. Summers, a plain but intelligent man, who having had the misfortune in infancy to cripple his left hand, was educated for the purpose of teaching, and he discharged his duties with the most exemplary attention. He professed nothing beyond English, writing, and arithmetic; but he was a good accountant, and an excellent writing-master. He perfected Mr Richard Porson in that delightful talent of writing, in which he so peculiarly excelled; but which we are doubtful whether to consider as an advantage, or a detriment to him, in his progress through life. It certainly had a considerable

influence on his habits, and made him devote many precious moments in copying, which might have been better employed in composition. It has been the means, however, of enriching his library with annotations in a text the most beautiful, and with such perfect imitation of the original manuscript or printing, as to embellish every work, which his erudition enabled him to elucidate. He continued under Mr Summers for three years; and every evening during that time he had to repeat by heart to his father the lessons and the tasks of the day; and this not in a loose and desultory manner, but in the rigorous order, in which they had been taught, and thus again the process of recollection was cherished and strengthened, so as to become a quality of his mind. It was impossible that such a youth should remain unnoticed, even in a place so thinly peopled and so obscure as the Parish of East-Ruston. The Rev. Mr Hewitt, Vicar of the Parish, heard of his extraordinary propensities to study,—his gift of attention to whatever was taught him,—and the wonderful fidelity, with which he retained whatever he had acquired. He took him and his brother Thomas under his care, and instructed them in the Classics. The progress of both was great, but that of Richard was most extraordinary, and when he had reached his fourteenth year, he had engaged the notice of all the gentlemen in the vicinity. Among others he was mentioned as a prodigy to an opulent and liberal man, the late Mr Norris of Grosvenor-Place, who, after having put him under an examination of the severest kind, from which an ordinary boy would have shrunk dismayed, sent him to Eton in August 1774, when he was in his 15th year. In that great seminary, he, almost from the commencement of his career, displayed such a superiority of intellect,—such facility of acquirements,—such quickness of perception,—and such a talent of bringing forward to his purpose all that he had ever read, that the upper boys took him into their society, and promoted the cultivation of his mind by their lessons, as well probably as by imposing upon him the performance of their own exercises. He was courted by them as the never-failing

resource in every difficulty ; and in all the playful excursions of the imagination, in their frolics as well as in their serious tasks, Porson was the constant adviser and support. He used to dwell on this lively part of his youth with peculiar complacency, and used to repeat a Drama, which he wrote for exhibition in their long Chamber, and other compositions, both of seriousness and drollery, with a zest, that the recollection of his enjoyment at the time never failed to revive in him. A very learned Scholar, to whom the public was indebted for "A Short Account of Mr Porson," published soon after his death, has the following remarks on his progress at Eton :—' By his own confession he learnt nothing, or added little to his stock, at school ; and perhaps for a good reason, since he had every thing, that was given him to read where he was first placed, by heart ; that is, he could repeat all Horace, and all the Virgil, commonly read at Eton, and the Iliad, and extracts from the Odyssey, Cicero and Livy, with the Ambubaiarum of Horace, the Eclogues and Georgics, and the Culex, Ciris, and Catalecta, which they do not read. But still, though he would not own it, he was much obliged to the collision of a Public School, for the rapidity, with which he increased his knowledge, and the correction of himself by the mistakes of others.'

"The death of Mr. Norris was the source of severe mortification to him ; though, by the kindness of some eminent and liberal persons, particularly Sir George Barker, he was continued at Eton, and afterwards placed at the University. To Sir George Barker, his second protector, he inscribed one of his Greek plays,

'*Britanniarum* 'APXIATPΩI.'

"It is to the fostering hand of this second patron, says Mr Weston, that we are indebted for the noblest plant, that ever grew in any garden, with such spreading branches, so high a head and so deep a root.

"He was entered of Trinity-College, towards the end of 1777, and his character having preceded him, he was from the first regarded as a youth, whose extraordinary endowments would do

honor to that Society. Nor did he disappoint the hopes, that had been formed of him. In every branch of study, to which he applied himself, his course was so rapid as to astonish every competent observer. By circumstances common at Cambridge, he was drawn first to read in mathematics, in which, from his early exercises, he was eminently calculated to shine, but from which he drew no benefit; and then, having the prospect of a Scholarship, he sat down to the Classics, in which he soon acquired undisputed pre-eminence. He obtained the Medal of course, and was elected a fellow in 1781. In 1785, he took his degree of master of arts; but long before the period had elapsed, when he must either enter into Holy orders, or surrender his fellowship, he felt such powerful scruples in his mind with regard to subscription to the Articles of the Church, that he determined to decline it; and so early as 1788, he had made up his mind to surrender his fellowship, though with an enfeebled constitution, he had nothing to depend upon but acquirements, that are very unprofitable to their owner. Accordingly, in 1791, his Fellowship ceased, but soon after some private friends stepped in, and in 1793, he was elected Greek-Professor of Cambridge, by an unanimous vote of the seven electors. The distinction of this appointment was grateful to him. The salary is but £40 a year. It was his earnest wish, however, to have made it an active and efficient office, and it was his determination to give an annual course of Lectures in the College, if rooms had been assigned him for the purpose. The importance of such Lectures, as he could have given, has been often revolved in the minds of some of his friends, while others have doubted whether his studies, which had been throughout life desultory, could have been concentrated to one point, and that point requiring unremitting assiduity, and a periodical regularity. No opportunity, however, was afforded for the trial.

“From this time, instead of Lectures, he turned his thoughts to publication; but before this, he had been a contributor to some of the literary Journals, of articles, which displayed his critical acumen. In the third volume of *Maty's Review*, he published a

criticism on Schutz's *Æschylus*, dated from Trinity-College, May 29, 1783. His other criticisms in that Review are Brunck's *Aristophanes*, vol. 4; *Hermesianax*, by Weston, vol. 5; *Huntingford's Apology* for his *Monostrophics*, vol. 6. He also furnished Mr Maty with a transcript of the letters of Bentley and Le Clerc, 9, 253. He was an occasional contributor to the *Monthly Review*, the *Gentleman's Magazine*, and it is believed, to other publications. The account of Robertson's *Parian Chronicle*, in the *Monthly Review*, was written by him; and the review of Knight's *Essay on the Greek Alphabet*, Jan. 1794, has from internal evidence been given to him. Of the ironical defence of Sir John Hawkins's *Life of Johnson* he was unquestionably the writer; this was comprised in three humorous letters, inserted in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1787, under the signature of *SUNDRY WHEREOF*. Some letters upon the contested verse, 1 John 5, 7. appeared subsequently in the same work; which at length caused the publication of his letters to Archdeacon Travis, in which he is thought by many to have completely invalidated the authority of that much-disputed verse.

"Not long after he had taken his first degree, it was in the contemplation of the Syndics of the University-Press at Cambridge, to publish *Æschylus*, with Stanley's Commentaries in MS. in the Public Library of that University. Mr Porson offered to undertake the work, if allowed to conduct it according to his own idea of the duties of an Editor; but this offer was rejected, and in a manner so discouraging, that we are told it in a great measure operated, for a short period, to extinguish in him that ardent love of fame, which is, generally speaking, the concomitant of learning, and the emanation of genius. We shall find hereafter how much he had at heart the elucidation of this very difficult author, and in the meantime he was not reluctant to employ his pen in similar undertakings. In 1785, when Nicholson, the bookseller of Cambridge, was preparing a new edition of Xenophon's *Anabasis*, he prevailed upon Mr Porson to furnish him with some assistance, which he accordingly did, to the extent of 28 pages of *Addenda*

which, although avowedly written in haste, attest the hand of a master. In the year 1787, he communicated to the Delegates of the Clarendon-Press some Notes upon Toup's Emendations on Suidas, which appeared with that important work in 1790. These Notes were probably composed by him at the request of his friend, Mr Tyrwhitt,—a gentleman, of whose learning and genius he had the highest opinion, and not only used to mention the talents and acuteness of Mr T. with approbation, but with reverence.

“However mortified Mr Porson was by the rejection of his proposals respecting *Æschylus* at Cambridge, he did not wholly forego the idea of publishing that author, and twice announced in *Maty's Review*, 3, 168. 4, 238. an intention to publish a new edition of Stanley's *Æschylus*, in three Volumes, and solicited the aid of English or Foreign Scholars. His first regular publication, however, was a Play of Euripides. In 1797, he published the *Hecuba*, which he intended as the precursor of all the Dramas of that Author. Accordingly, the next year was published the *Orestes*; the year after the *Phœnissæ*, and, in 1801, the *Medea* issued from the press at Cambridge, to which his name was prefixed. In 1802 was published a second edition of the *Hecuba*, with a Supplement to the Preface, and a very copious addition to the Notes.

“The last work, that Professor Porson published, was a third edition of the *Hecuba*. He had also, it is said, made a considerable progress in the revision of the three other Plays, which he had formerly edited; but it has been lamented that he spent so much time in revising what he had already given to the world, instead of proceeding to correct the text of the remaining Plays.

“The other literary labors of Professor Porson we shall briefly notice. When Heyne's *Virgil* was republished in London, he was engaged to superintend the press; but to this he did very little. The Grenville Homer had more of his assistance, as he collated the *Odyssey* with a Harleian MS. His last literary labor was his *Æschylus*. The fate of this work was somewhat singular: according to the Author of the *Pursuits of Literature*, he had lent his MS.

corrections and conjectures on the text of *Æschylus* to a friend in Scotland, and these falling into the hands of Foulis the printer, he published a magnificent edition of the text without the Notes. This appeared in 1795, folio, but the edition was limited to the small number of 52 of the small paper, and 11 of the large. The professor's own edition was printed in 2 vols 8vo, as early as 1794, but for what reason we know not, was not published until 1805, and then without the Notes. It still, however, is to be considered as a permanent advantage to Greek literature, as the text is, in almost numberless instances, improved by his sagacity.

"In 1795, Mr Porson married Mrs Lunan, the sister of Mr Perry, the Proprietor and Conductor of the *Morning-Chronicle*, which had to boast of many of his fugitive pieces. This lady died, in consequence of a decline, in April, 1797. He had long before enjoyed the friendship of her brother, who for many years contributed more to the comfort of Mr Porson's life than any one man we are able to mention. Porson had a proud and independent spirit;—it was difficult therefore to confer an obligation on him, although his situation rendered many such necessary, but Mr Perry, by a thousand acts of kindness, had completely engaged his confidence, and had the art of conferring his favors in a manner, which removed the painful sense of obligation. Porson knew that Mr Perry was perfectly disinterested, and accepted from him what he would have rejected with indignation, if offered by one, who assumed the airs of the patron, and Mr Perry, by carefully studying his temper, was enabled to anticipate his wishes, and on various occasions, contrived to exercise a salutary control over his failings, which his delicacy and judgment rendered imperceptible.

"Mr Porson was in his latter days often afflicted with a spasmodic asthma, which interrupted his studies, and consequently in a great degree, repressed his literary ardor. Whether this disease was a revival of a complaint, which had afflicted his early youth, or was engendered by the severe and laborious study, which had marked his middle age, is uncertain. It was probably increased by the latter, and certainly so by his irregularities, and neglect

of the common means of health. There were times, however, when few men could display such patient and continued toil. An instance of this is mentioned, which strongly marks his character :—He had undertaken to make out and copy the almost obliterated MS of the invaluable Lexicon of Photius, which he had borrowed from the Library of Trinity-College, and this he had with unparalleled difficulty just completed, when the beautiful copy, which had cost him ten months of incessant toil, was burned along with the house of Mr Perry at Merton. The original, being an unique entrusted to him by the College, he carried with him wheresoever he went, and he was fortunately absent from Merton, on the morning of the fire. Unruffled by the loss, he sat down without a murmur and made a second copy as beautiful as the first, which is now in Trinity-College Library.

“ When the London-Institution was established, professor Porson was selected to fill the situation of Principal Librarian. This office, which was rewarded with a salary of £200 a year, and a suite of rooms, provided very amply for a man, in whose eyes money had little value, unless as it enabled him to pursue his studies ; but it was rather convenient in that view, than gratifying with respect to its duties. The number of those, who in his time availed themselves of the fine Library of the Institution, was too small to require the assistance of such a man as Porson :—yet in the few instances which occurred, of young men attending there for the serious purposes of study, he delighted to be their instructor ; and, as one of his biographers has observed, ‘ his mode of communication, liberal in the extreme, was truly amiable, as he told you all you wanted to know in a plain and direct manner, without any attempt to display his own superiority, but merely to inform you.’ We have often been surprised that the business of tuition was never recommended to him ; but perhaps in this, as in other instances, the irregularity of his habits would have been a great obstruction.

“ In the year 1808, asthmatic complaint became so frequent as to interrupt his usual pursuits, and so painful, that during the

agony he never went to bed and was forced to abstain from all sustenance. This greatly debilitated his body; and about a month before his death, he was also afflicted with an intermittent fever. He had an unfortunate objection to medical advice, and therefore resorted to his usual remedy of abstinence; but on Monday, Sept. 19, 1808, he suffered an apoplectic stroke, from which he recovered only to endure another the next day. He languished in consequence until the Sunday night, and then expired without a struggle at his rooms in the London-Institution. His remains were removed for interment in the Ante-Chapel of Trinity-College, Cambridge, and were deposited in a grave close to the statue of Sir Isaac Newton, and near the ashes of Bentley. The funeral was attended by the Society of the College, and the service read by the Master, the Bishop of Bristol. The College afterwards purchased such of his books, as contained his MS. Notes, which were very numerous, and from which two publications have since been made, one of his *Adversaria*, and the other, already mentioned, by Mr Kidd.

“ ‘The principal qualities,’ says one of his biographers, ‘in this great man’s mind, were his extraordinary acuteness of discernment, and solidity of judgment; and these, added to his intense application and stupendous memory, made him what the world perhaps never saw before, a complete critic, in the most honorable and extended sense of that appellation. His reading was immense; he was an excellent French scholar, but in his native language, in the Latin, and in the Greek, he was most familiarly and profoundly versed. He had indeed applied the knowledge, which he had gained, of the origin and structure of language in general, to all these dialects, if we may so express ourselves, of the universal language; and had not his eminence in classical literature, by its uncommon lustre obscured other attainments, he would doubtless have been considered as one of the first English scholars. In Greek, however, we have no hesitation in pronouncing him the very first, not merely of his own age but of every other. In him were conspicuous boundless extent of

reading, a most exact and well-ordered memory, unwearied patience in unravelling the sense of an author, and exploring the perplexities of a MS.; perspicuity in discovering the corruptions of a text, and acuteness almost intuitive in restoring the true reading. All this was tempered with a judgment, which preserved him invariably from the rocks, against which even the greatest of his critical predecessors have at some time or other split;—we mean precipitation in determining that to be unsound, which after all had no defect, and rashness in applying remedies, which only served to increase the disease.' On the failings of this eminent man we have but gently touched: there is reason to think they have been exaggerated by vulgar report. Whatever they were, it is to his credit that they, who knew him most intimately, were most disposed to forget them in the splendor of his uncommon talents.

"Mr Porson left a sister, a most amiable and accomplished woman, the wife of Siday Hawes, Esq., of Coltishall, Norfolk. Henry, his second brother, was settled in a farm in Essex, and died young, leaving three children. His brother Thomas, the companion of his juvenile studies, was an excellent scholar; he kept a boarding-school at Fakenham, and died in 1792, without issue. His father Mr Huggin Porson, died in 1805, in his 74th year; his mother died in 1784, aged 57.

(Morning-Chronicle for Oct. 6, 1808; Athenæum 4, 426. 521. 5, 55; Savage's Librarian 1, 274; Gentleman's Magazine, Vol. 78; Dibdin's Classics.)"

CHALMERS'S *Biographical Dictionary*.

#### IX. FROM DR AIKIN'S ATHENÆUM.

"*Compositum jus fasque animi, sanctosque recessus*  
*'Mentis, et incoctum generoso pectus honesto.'*

PERSIUS.

"It is equally the duty and the province of this Miscellany, to call the attention of our contemporaries to examples of departed worth, and to stimulate the exertions of those whose intimacy with the deceased, and whose knowledge of their characters at once

animates and enables them to pourtray their merits with an exactness of drawing, and strength of coloring, proportioned to the importance of the subject. In no instance have we felt this duty more imperious, in no instance is the discharge of it more difficult, than when we find ourselves called upon to record the death of Mr Professor Porson. His talents and attainments were exercised in a path so rarely trodden, that few minds, except his own, could measure exactly the extent of his discoveries; and besides the difficulty of giving interest to a life of study, his early years were passed in an unusual degree of privacy. It would, therefore, be a task of peculiar nicety to state with accuracy the facts of his initiation into letters, and still more to develope with precision the effect those uncommon circumstances produced upon his growing understanding. Having thus briefly stated the arduous nature of the duty imposed upon us, we nevertheless feel that it is our duty to attempt, at least in some degree, to trace the lineaments of this incomparable Scholar's mind, and to point out the reasons, for which we must consider his death as the most irreparable loss, that Classical Literature has ever yet sustained. The circumstances of his early education, and the more prominent incidents of his life, have been detailed with great ability in a periodical publication by a writer, in whom the means of information have been combined with a most anxious and natural desire to pay a deserved tribute to the memory of a departed and most distinguished relative. Insufficient as the time has been to collect ampler materials, we cannot do justice to the subject more completely than by adopting this account as the ground-work of our Notice, and subjoining such observations upon a character so remarkable, as an accurate study of his works, added to the impressions made by our own personal knowledge, has suggested to us upon this melancholy occasion :—

“ Richard Porson was born at East-Ruston in Norfolk, on Christmas-day, 1759, so that he was only in his 49th year. Every thing about this most eminent Scholar, and particularly the circumstances, which laid the foundation of that most inestimable

memory, by which he was enabled to store his mind with all the riches of literature, ancient and modern, will become truly interesting to the world. He owed the blessing to the care and judgment of his father, Mr Huggin Porson who was Parish-Clerk of East-Ruston, and who, though in humble life, and without the advantages himself of early education, laid the basis of his son's unparalleled acquirements. From the earliest dawn of intellect, Mr Porson began the task of fixing the attention of his children, three sons and a daughter; and he had taught Richard, his eldest son, all the common rules of arithmetic, without the use of a book or slate, pen or pencil, up to the cube-root, before he was nine years of age. The memory was thus incessantly exercised; and by this early habit of working a question in arithmetic by the mind only, he acquired such a talent of close and intense thinking, and such a power of arranging every operation, that occupied his thought, as in process of time to render the most difficult problems, which to other men required the assistance of written figures, easy to the retentive faculties of his memory. He was initiated in letters by a process equally efficacious. His father taught him to read and write at one and the same time;—He drew the form of the letter either with chalk on a board, or with the finger in sand; and Richard was made at once to understand and imitate the impression. As soon as he could speak, he could trace the letters; and this exercise delighting his fancy, an ardor of imitating whatever was put before him, was excited to such a degree, that the walls of the house were covered with characters, which attracted notice from their neatness and fidelity of delineation.

“‘ At nine years of age, he and his youngest brother Thomas were sent to the village-school, kept by a Mr Summers, a plain, but most intelligent and worthy man, who having had the misfortune in infancy to cripple his left hand, was educated for the purpose of teaching, and he discharged his duties with the most exemplary attention. He professed nothing beyond English, writing, and arithmetic, with the rudiments of Latin; he was a good accountant, and an excellent writing-master. He perfected

the PROFESSOR in that delightful talent of writing, in which he so peculiarly excelled ; but which we are doubtful whether it is to be considered as an advantage, or a detriment to him in his progress through life. It certainly had a considerable influence on his habits, and made him devote many precious moments to copying, which might have been better employed in composition. It has been the means, however, of enriching his library with annotations, in a text the most beautiful, and with such perfect imitation of the original manuscript or printing, as to embellish every work, which his erudition enabled him to elucidate. He continued under Mr Summers for three years ; and every evening during that time he had to repeat by heart to his father the lessons and tasks of the day ; and this not in a loose or desultory manner, but in the rigorous order, in which whatever he had been occupied about, had been done ; and thus again the process of recollection was cherished and strengthened, so as to become a quality of his mind. It was impossible that such a youth should remain unnoticed, even in a place so thinly peopled, and so obscure as the Parish of East-Ruston. The Rev. Mr Hewitt heard of his extraordinary propensities to study, his gift of attention to whatever was taught him, and the wonderful fidelity, with which he retained whatever he had acquired. He took him and his brother Thomas under his care, and instructed them in the Classics. The progress of both was great, but that of Richard was most extraordinary. It became the topic of astonishment beyond the district, and when he had reached his fourteenth year, had engaged the notice of all the gentlemen in the vicinity. Among others he was mentioned as a prodigy to an opulent and liberal man, the late Mr Norris, who, after having put the youth under an examination of the severest kind, and from which an ordinary boy would have shrunk dismayed, sent him to Eton. This happened in the month of August, 1774, when he was in his 15th year ; and in that great seminary, he, almost from the commencement of his career, displayed such a superiority of intellect, such facility of acquirements, such quickness of perception, and such a talent of bringing for-

ward to his purpose all that he had ever read, that the upper boys took him into their society, and promoted the cultivation of his mind by their lessons, as well probably as by imposing upon him the performance of their own exercises. He was courted by them as the never-failing resource in every difficulty; and in all the playful excursions of the imagination, in their frolics, as well as in their serious tasks, Porson was the constant adviser and support. He used to dwell on this lively part of youth with peculiar complacency, and we have heard him repeat a Drama, which he wrote for exhibition in their long Chamber, and other compositions, both of seriousness and drollery, with a zest, that the recollection of his enjoyment at the time never failed to revive in him. We fear however, that at this early age, his constitution received a shock, which was soon after aggravated by the death of his worthy patron. An imposthume formed on his lungs, and he was threatened by a consumption, but it fortunately broke, and he recovered his health, though the frame was weakened.

“ ‘The death of Mr Norris was the source of severe mortification to him; for though, by the kindness of some eminent and liberal persons, he was continued at Eton, he felt the loss he had sustained, in the most poignant degree. But we do not mean, (this day at least,) to do more than trace the dates of his progress to the Professor’s chair. He was entered of Trinity-College, towards the end of 1777, and his character having gone before him to the University, he was from the first regarded as a youth, whose extraordinary endowments would keep up and extend the reputation of the unrivalled Society, into which he had entered; nor did he disappoint the hopes, that had been formed of him. In every branch of study, to which he applied himself, his course was so rapid as to astonish every competent observer. By accidents, which in a more detailed biographical article will be explained, he was drawn first to read in Mathematics, in which, from his early exercises, he was so eminently calculated to shine, but from which he drew no benefit; and then, by the prospect of a Scholarship, which, however, did not become vacant till long after, he sat down to the

Classics. In this pursuit he soon acquired undisputed pre-eminence. He obtained the Medal of course, and was elected a Fellow in 1781. In 1785, he took his degree of Master of Arts ; but long before the period had elapsed, when he must either entered into Holy Orders, or surrender his Fellowship, he had, (after the most grave and deliberate investigation, to which he had brought all that acute gift of examination, that has been made so perceptible in his Letters to Mr Archdeacon Travis,) made up his mind on the subject of subscription. We are sure that his determination cost him many painful and laborious days and months of study. His heart and mind were deeply penetrated by the purest sentiments of religion ; and it was a memorable and most estimable feature of his character, that in no moment the most unguarded, (when that ardor of discussion, which alone led him to indulgence, had elevated his spirits,) was he ever known to utter a single expression of discontent at the Establishment, of derision of those, who thought differently from himself, much less of profaneness or impiety. He was truly and actively pious, but it was of an order, that admitted not of shackles. So early as the year 1788, he had made up his mind to surrender his Fellowship, though with an enfeebled constitution, he had nothing to depend upon but acquirements, that are very unprofitable to their owner. A Lay-Fellowship, to be sure, might have secured his services to the cause of letters ; but the disingenuous conduct of an individual withheld from him that resource. In 1791, his Fellowship ceased, and he was thrown upon the world without a profession,—his feelings wounded by the mortifications he had suffered, and with a constitution little qualified to encounter the bustle of the world. Some private friends, however, stepped in, and soon after he was elected Greek-Professor in the University of Cambridge, by an unanimous vote of the seven electors. The distinction of this appointment was grateful to him ; the salary is but £40 a year. It was his earnest wish, however, to have made it an active and efficient office, and it was his determination to give an annual Course of Lectures in the College, if rooms had been assigned him for the purpose.

These Lectures, as he designed, and had in truth made preparations for them, would have been invaluable; for he would have found occasion to elucidate the languages in general, and to have displayed their relations, their differences, their near and remote connections, their changes, their structure, their principles of etymology, and their causes of corruption. If any one man was qualified for this gigantic task, it was Mr Professor Porson; and, if his wishes had not been counteracted, we know that he would have undertaken the labor.

“From this time, instead of Lectures, he turned his thoughts to publication. His Letters to Mr Archdeacon Travis, as has been truly said, put the controversy on the disputed text to rest; and indeed it was the peculiar felicity of his mind that, whatever he undertook to elucidate, he fixed for ever in the light.

“In 1795, he married Mrs Lunan, the sister of Mr Perry, of this paper, but who sunk under a decline in 1797, and from that time the professor himself was so incessantly afflicted with a spasmodic asthma, as to interrupt him in every study, to which he applied himself. Whether his sedentary habits served to bring it on, we know not, but certainly very few men had accustomed themselves to such patient and continued toil. He had undertaken to make out and copy the almost obliterated MS. of the invaluable Lexicon of Photius, which he had borrowed from the Library of Trinity-College; and this he had with unparalleled difficulty just completed, when the beautiful copy, which had cost him ten months of incessant toil, was burnt in the house of Mr Perry at Merton. The original being an unique, entrusted to him by his College, he carried with him wherever he went: and he was fortunately absent from Merton on the morning of the fire. Unruffled by the loss, he sat down without a murmur, and made a second copy as beautiful as the first. It is extant in his Library, and is quite ready for the press. Of the Plays of Euripides, which he published, the learned world has pronounced its judgment, and we reserve for another occasion an account of this and his other

literary labors. It may be pleasant to our readers, however to know that he has left an Orestes quite ready for the press.

“On the establishment of the London-Institution, the Managers manifested their own discernment and love of letters by selecting him to be their Principal Librarian,—an appointment, for which he was peculiarly qualified,—and, if time and health had been allowed him, he would have made their Library truly valuable. His own, which he had been gradually collecting for thirty years, he has enriched by annotations of such value and importance to literature, that, we hope and trust, the whole will be placed in his own College, that it may for ever be within the reach of those, whom his example may arouse to similar pursuits, though they may despair of reaching equal attainments.

“We have said that we should feel it our duty to correct some of the mis-statements, that have gone forth, as to his habits of life, and as to the circumstances of his death, but we have scarcely left ourselves room after this hasty sketch, (written since our return from paying the last duties of inconsolable friendship to his remains,) to perform the task. Mr Porson, as we have stated above, has for the last eleven years been the incessant victim of spasmodic asthma, during the agony of which he never went to bed, and was forced to abstain from all sustenance. This greatly debilitated his body; and about a month ago he was afflicted by an intermittent fever. He had an unfortunate objection to medical advice, and he resorted to his usual remedy of abstinence; but on Monday, the 19th ult., he suffered an apoplectic stroke, from which he recovered only to endure a second attack the next day. He languished to the Sunday night, and expired without a struggle. The body was opened by his medical attendants, and they have given a Report, ascribing his death “to the effused lymph, in and upon the brain, which they believe to have been the effect of recent inflammation. The heart was sound, and the pericardium contained the usual quantity of lymph; the left lung had adhesions to the pleura, and bore the marks of former inflammation; the right lung was in a perfectly sound state.” This is signed by Dr Babington,

Sir Wm Blizard, Mr Norris, Mr Blizard, and Mr Upton. In refutation of an idle falsehood about the form of his skull, they add, "That it was thinner than usual, and of hard consistence."

"Mr Porson has left a sister living, an amiable and accomplished woman. She is the wife of Siday Hawes, Esq., of Coltishall, in Norfolk; they have five children; their eldest son is entered at Benet College, Cambridge. Henry, the second brother of the Professor, was settled in a farm in Essex, and died young, leaving three children. His brother Thomas kept a boarding-school at Fakenham, was an excellent scholar, and died in 1792, without issue; his father, Mr Huggin Porson, died in October, 1805, in his 78th year. His mother died in 1784, aged 57. These few particulars may satisfy for the time the impatience of all those, who knew his incomparable talents, but who were unacquainted with his private history. We shall hereafter speak of the character of his mind, and of the various attainments, in which he had no rival."

"The most remarkable among the intellectual powers of Richard Porson, was unquestionably that of memory. It was at once obvious to every one, who had the good fortune to be in his company, and it never ceased to excite the admiration of those, who had most frequently an opportunity of conversing with him. Every thing he had read, (and what was there worthy or indeed unworthy of literary notice, which he had not read?) appeared to be present to his mind with uncommon precision. Whenever a subject connected with English, French, Latin, or Greek poetry was started, he would recite some brilliant and striking passage at considerable length in the words of the Author. And in the latter," (last,) "language more especially, which was his favorite study, he was so completely master, not only of the words of the author in question, but of every circumstance relating to the words, that he would expatiate upon the various readings, and the points of grammar and criticism connected with them, in such a manner as to produce the effect of a complete and well-digested Variorum commentary. We remember to have heard him relate

one or two incidents, which occurred at different, although both early, periods of his life, which will illustrate this quality of his mind far better than any labored detail.

“When he was very young, perhaps at the time when he was under the care of Mr Summers, returning to his father’s cottage, he lost his way, and found shelter in the house of a little, (small,) farmer, whose son, somewhat older than Porson, had just quitted school. With this boy Porson was to sleep; but instead of betaking himself to his slumbers, he began questioning his companion concerning what he had learnt at school. He found him a most admirable arithmetician, and passed the night in proposing questions, which the other answered to his satisfaction, as well as surprise; for at last he found him capable of multiplying 9 figures by 9 in his head,—an operation, which was quite familiar to our young Professor.

“When at Eton, as he was going to his tutor’s, to construe an Horace lesson, preparatory to the business of school, one of the senior boys took Porson’s Horace from him, and thrust into his hands some English book. The tutor called upon Porson to construe, and the other boys were much amused in considering the figure he would make in this emergency. Porson, however, who had Horace by heart before he went to Eton, knowing where the lesson was to begin, began without hesitation,

‘*MERCURI, FACUNDE NEPOS ATLANTIS,*’

and went on regularly, first reciting the Latin, and then giving the Latin and English, as if he had really the author before him. The tutor perceiving some symptoms of astonishment as well as mirth amongst the other boys, suspected that there was something unusual in the affair, and inquired what edition of Horace Porson had in his hand. ‘I learnt the lesson from the Delphin,’ replied his pupil, avoiding a direct answer. ‘That is very odd,’ replied the other, ‘for you seem to be reading in a different side of the page from myself,—let me see your book.’ The truth was of course then discovered; but the master, instead of shewing any displeasure, wisely and kindly observed to the others, that he

should be most happy to find any of them acquitting themselves as well, in a similar predicament.

"The sensible and well written Memoir, above quoted, accounts in some degree for the extent, to which this invaluable faculty of his mind was at length carried ; but it certainly must be allowed that very strong original powers, and intense application in after-life, must have been required in order to secure the attainment of such a blessing. It should be remembered to the honor of the Professor, that he never appeared in any degree vain of this astonishing talent ; and he once observed to the writer of this paper, I never remembered anything but what I transcribed three times, or read over six times at the least, and, if you will do the same, you will have as good a memory. Indeed he was at all times the warm advocate of a doctrine, which is as true as it is important in the conduct of education. He maintained that superiority of intellect and of attainments, was not so much owing to a difference in the formation of the organs, as in the mode, by which education was conducted. And, although such a man as Porson could not have failed to have been distinguished for the strength and acuteness of his understanding under any circumstances, yet it cannot be doubted that the habits of his earlier years contributed much to that force and precision in his memory, for which he was so eminently distinguished.

"There were other qualities in this great man's mind, although not so obvious to a common observer, nor so dazzling, yet even more rare and more useful. These were his extraordinary acuteness of discernment and solidity of judgment ; and these, added to his intense application, and stupendous memory, made him, what the world perhaps never saw before, a complete critic, in the most honorable and extended sense of that appellation. His reading was of course immense ; he was an excellent French scholar ; but in his native language, in the Latin, and in the Greek, he was most familiarly and profoundly versed. He had indeed applied the knowledge he had gained, of the origin and structure of language. in general, to all these dialects, (if we may so express ourselves,)

of the universal language; and, had not his eminence in classical literature by its uncommon lustre obscured other attainments, he would doubtless have been considered, as one of the first English scholars. In Greek, however, we have no hesitation in pronouncing him the very first, not merely of his own age, but of every other. He is surely entitled to this honorable distinction, when we consider that he possessed at once, each in its highest degree of excellence, all the qualities, for which any single scholar has hitherto been eminent. In him were conspicuous boundless extent of reading,—a most exact and well-ordered memory,—unwearied patience in unravelling the sense of an author, and exploring the perplexities of a MS.,—perspicacity in discovering the corruptions of a text,—and acuteness, almost intuitive, in restoring the true reading. All this, be it observed, was tempered with a judgment, which preserved him invariably from the rocks, against which even the greatest of his critical predecessors have at some time or other split; we mean precipitation in determining that to be unsound, which after all had no defect,—and rashness in applying remedies, which only served to increase the disease.

“In thus pronouncing him superior to Salmasius, Casaubon, Hemsterhusius, Toup, Dawes, and even to Bentley and Valcken-aer, some of our readers may perhaps be of opinion, that he has published too little to justify this high encomium. To these we must reply in the words of the old proverb *Ex pede Herculem*, and we would boldly refer to the four Plays of Euripides, with the Preface and Supplement, as the work of a critic, soaring in genius and in attainment above his predecessors. When, moreover, we appeal to those exquisite specimens of profound knowledge and critical acumen, which he so liberally communicated to his friends, we have no hesitation in giving it as our opinion, that, what is yet unpublished, is equal, both in value and extent, to that which has already been submitted to the world. And we have only to express our most ardent and decided wish, that some steps may be immediately taken, in order to collect all the remains of this admirable Scholar, for the purpose of publication, whether

they be recorded in the memories and books of his friends, or whether they be treasured among his own literary *κειμήλια*.

"In the enumeration of those qualities, which contributed to raise this wonderful man to such a proud pre-eminence, it would be unpardonable to forget the point and brilliancy of his wit. It is difficult to define this faculty as it exists in any mind; but it is peculiarly so as it appeared in that of Porson, on account of the variety, as well as beauty, of the forms it assumed. At one time it was the happy talent of enlivening and illustrating a subject by a peculiarly apt and dextrous quotation; at another, it scattered at will the Attic salt, which gave so much vivacity to the controversies of Bentley, and which diffuses such peculiar splendor over the polemical gloom of the Letters to Mr Archdeacon Travis; at other times this superior genius, wielded the more concealed, but caustic weapon, which probed to the quick the follies and the vices of mankind in the Satires of Swift. Such, and so various were the powers of Richard Porson, that by turns we are in doubt whether we have been more fascinated by his wit, or astonished at his learning.

"To these intellectual excellencies, faintly and imperfectly as they are portrayed, were added strong and admirable moral qualities:—the most inflexible spirit of integrity,—a most inviolable regard to truth,—and their necessary concomitants, the most determined independence. By precept, as well as example, he discountenanced all violent emotions of the mind, and particularly that of anger. His sentiments upon the subject of religion it was difficult, (at least for such persons, as did not enjoy opportunities of frequent and familiar intercourse with him,) to collect with precision. We are, however, enabled to state, as the decided conviction of those, who were more particularly honored with his confidence, that his faith was steady in the pure and consoling truths of Christianity. In his interpretation of some parts of the sacred volume, he certainly differed from the Church of England; but his dissent was unmingled with any tincture of undue or schismatical warmth in favor of a system, to which, after mature and

painful deliberation, he felt himself bound to adhere. For the name of God he ever observed the most pious reverence; nor ever would he suffer it to be profaned in his presence. Obscene language was in an equal degree the object of his antipathy and disgust.

“He undoubtedly had a warm sense of kindness to himself, and felt more than he expressed of benevolence towards others. Of every thing mean, base, insolent, treacherous, or selfish, whether practised towards others, or towards himself, he had a quick discernment, and a most rooted abhorrence; and the terms of bitter contempt, or of severe indignation, in which he expressed himself upon such occasions, may have given rise to opinions concerning the real bent of his feelings, which those, who had frequent opportunities of observing him, can safely pronounce to be unfounded.

“From this attempt to shew the cast of his moral character, it appears that, as the features of his mind were robust, so were the virtues of his heart stern. Indeed, in many of their better points, he has frequently reminded us of the old Stoics; but, if he did take Cato for his model, it is seriously to be lamented that he imitated him in one of his defects. We have no doubt that the *tempestiva convivia*, in which the Professor loved to indulge, owed their origin to a sleeplessness first brought on by habits of study, and subsequently increased by indisposition; but, whatever was the cause, deeply do we deplore this additional instance of infirmity attached to the greatest and most shining excellencies. We must, however, carefully guard our readers from supposing that this eminently learned man was habitually addicted to the use of strong and heating liquors: when alone, he was singularly abstemious. And again we must urge the observation that his late hours were not occasioned by the vice of intemperance, but by the misfortune of his inability to sleep. His usual and favorite beverage upon these occasions was table-beer; and continually would he pass the night, charming and instructing those, who sat around, without the slightest advance to inebriety. But sometimes

the officious zeal of his less discreet companions, would supply temptations, against which he was not sufficiently upon his guard ; and towards the latter part of his life, his frame, undermined as it unhappily was by the corrosions of disease, could ill sustain, and consequently betrayed the least indulgence. Yet, be it observed, in no moment of gaiety, carried even to a faulty excess, did he ever lose that reverence for the name of his Creator, and that loathing of obscenity, which we have already mentioned as honorable characteristics of his moral tendencies ; never did he swerve from his undeviating attachment to truth, nor ever was he known to betray a secret.

"In a subsequent No we propose to give an account of the Professor's publications, and to collect, as well as we may be enabled, some of those lighter productions, which are dispersed in the fugitive publications of the day.

"Oct. 17, 1808.

HELLENOPHILUS."

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*"Account of the Literary Labors of MR PROFESSOR PORSON.*

"Not long after the professor had taken his first degree, it was in the contemplation of the Syndics of the University-Press at Cambridge, to publish *Æschylus*, with those papers of Stanley, which have since been committed to the care of the Rev. Mr Butler, Master of Shrewsbury-School. Mr Porson offered to undertake the work, if he were allowed to conduct it according to his own views of the duty of an Editor. He moreover suggested, that it was highly desirable to obtain the various readings of an important MS upon the Continent, (at Venice, if we rightly remember,) and he actually proposed to undertake a journey for the purpose of collating it, at an expense not greater than that, for which the task could have been performed by a person upon the spot. Unhappily for the interests of learning, this offer was rejected, and in a manner so discouraging, that it served in a great measure to extinguish in him that ardent love of fame, which is at once the most powerful and the most honorable incentive to every laborious undertaking. Whether it were wholly produced

by the various disappointments, which this great scholar experienced in his progress through life, or whether it were aided by a certain portion of constitutional apathy, unquestionably there never existed an individual so capable of reaching the highest distinction in that species of excellence, upon which himself appeared to place the greatest value, yet who so sternly neglected the means, by which such an end might be attained. In consequence of this turn of mind, he confined himself for a considerable period to such exertions, as were called forth by a wish to serve his friends; and we probably owe to accident, or to the incessant importunity of others, the greater part of what has at length appeared under his own name.

"In 1786, when Nicholson, the celebrated bookseller at Cambridge, was preparing a new edition of Xenophon's *Anabasis*, he prevailed upon Mr Porson to furnish him with some Notes, which occupy about 19 closely printed 8vo pages, and which, though avowedly written in haste, and upon an author, whom he had not particularly studied, yet attest the hand of a master. The citations from Suidas, which accompany these Notes, were furnished by the Rev. W. Whiter, the learned and ingenious author of a *Specimen of a Commentary on Shakspeare*, and of a new *Etymologicum Magnum*.

"In the year 1787, he communicated to the Delegates of the Clarendon-Press some Notes upon Toup's *Emendations on Suidas*, which appeared with that important work in 1790. These Notes he had probably put together at the request of his friend, Mr Tyrwhitt, whose learning and acuteness he always mentioned, not merely with approbation, but even with reverence. To the great loss of letters, this excellent man had died just before these Notes were written. Mr Porson speaks of him as *desideratissimus*, p. 422, and of his literary character he thus pronounces his opinion, *Tyrwhittum acerrimum, si quis alius, harum rerum judicem*, p. 448. *Si in palmaria Tyrwhitti acutissimi emendatione acquiescere nolebat Toupius*, p. 461. We have a pleasure in quoting these expressions of warm panegyric, because a notion has been enter-

tained that Mr Porson was actuated by a mean spirit of rivalry, which led him to depreciate the merit of others. If his writings be fairly examined, such an opinion will appear grossly unjust. Higher praise cannot be given than the following: *Vir summus, qui in his literis regnat, Ruhkenius, (Not. in Xenoph.) Insignis et extra omnem dubitationis aleam posita est summa Bentleii emendatio, (Not. in Suid.)* Valckenaer, Toup, Dawes, Koen, Pierson, Brunck, Wyttenbach, and all real Scholars, are praised in his writings, and appeared the object of his respect in conversation. But the Professor always discriminated when he bestowed praise, and indeed he says of himself, *Ab eorum consuetudine valde abhorruì, qui nihil aliud quam pulcre, bene, recte, tertio quoque verbo ingerunt.* Unquestionably when he meets with a pretender to knowledge, or one who detracts from the real merit of others, he does apply the lash of animadversion with a very unsparing hand. See pp. 486, 493, of the work, concerning which we are speaking, and of which we shall only say that it furnishes the most indubitable specimens of learning, acuteness, and judgement.

"In the mean time the Professor was silently enriching the Republic of Letters by contributions to Maty's Review. The following is, we believe, a correct list of the articles, which he furnished to that publication:—Schutz's *Æschylus*, 3, 433. (this is dated from Trinity-College,) Brunck's *Aristophanes*, 4, 55. *Hermesianax*, by Weston, 5, 238. Huntingford's *Apology for his Monostrophica*, 6, 93. He also furnished Mr Maty with a transcript of the Letters of Bentley and Le Clerc, 9, 253. But whether he wrote the account added to them, we are not enabled to state.

"However mortified Mr Porson might have felt by the rejection of his proposals respecting *Æschylus* at Cambridge, he did not altogether forego the idea of publishing that author. At two several times he announced, in Maty's Review, an intention, which the learned must deeply deplore, was never fully executed, 3. 168. 4, 328. It seems indeed that some fatality attended every effort made by the Professor to restore some of his original

brightness to that meteor of the ancient drama. Through the intervention of that admirable Scholar, Dr Charles Burney, of Greenwich, the professor concluded a treaty with Messrs Elmsley & Payne, in consequence of which a new, but most improved edition, was to be printed at Glasgow. After the proofs of the first five or six plays had been regularly sent to the professor, they suddenly stopped, and some time after it was discovered that the Scotch printer had used the paper for the folio edition. Nor was it known for a considerable time, that the smaller edition was in existence, till at length the English booksellers discovered the fraud. In the Monthly Review for Febr. 1796, is some account of this abominable transaction, and to that we must refer our readers.

“Although Mr Porson, in consequence of the most untoward circumstances, did not appear before the public in works avowedly written by himself, yet his mind was too active, or his disposition too friendly, to allow the world to be deprived of all the benefit of his immense erudition. He was an occasional contributor to the Monthly Review, to the Gentleman’s Magazine, and we believe, to other periodical publications. Concerning those, which we have named, we have to state that the account of Robertson’s Parian Chronicle, Monthly Review 79, 351. (1788,) and 80, 38: was written by him. From internal evidence we are disposed also to assign to him the Review of Knight’s Essay on the Greek Alphabet, Jan. 1794. Of three admirable Letters, containing an ironical defence of Sir John Hawkins’s Life of Johnson, and which appeared in the Gentleman’s Magazine for 1787, under the signature of Sundry Whereof, he was unquestionably the writer. Some Letters upon the contested verse, 1 John 5, 7. appeared also in the same work, which at length caused the inimitable and unanswerable Letters to Archdeacon Travis. In that work it is difficult to say whether argument or wit, vivacity of manner, or patience of research, be most conspicuous. This work appeared in 1790, and when it is considered that the subject though abstruse, is of the highest importance, and that it is

recommended, not only by the qualities just mentioned, but by a most exquisite specimen of English composition, the neglect, which it experienced from the author's countrymen, is alike discreditable to their taste and their understanding. If our memory does not fail us, the author received only £30 for the work, and he was informed by the publisher that he had lost money by it. With good reason might Valckenaer exclaim, *In Græcis istis Bibliis, dum juvenia vigebam, a me diligenter tractatis, seecenta possent similia demonstrari; sed quam pauci hoc tempore talia tibi monstrari desiderarent!* (Theocr. Idyll. 10. p. 230.)

“When Mr Porson was at length placed in that situation, to which, if all the Scholars living could have been candidates for it, he unquestionably might advance the fairest pretensions, he seriously turned his thoughts to publication. In 1797, the *Hecuba* appeared, as the precursor of all the Dramas of Euripides, had the Editor been allowed that portion of health, which would have enabled him to finish his design. The next year appeared the *Orestes*; the year after, the *Phœnissæ*; all these without his name, and printed in London. In 1801, the *Medea* appeared, printed at Cambridge, and with his name prefixed,—the Syndics, (a different race, it need scarcely be mentioned, from those, who had slighted him in his earlier days,) being disposed to give the warmest encouragement, not only to this work, but to every other, in which he might be willing to engage. Under their auspices, appeared also in 1592, a second edition of the *Hecuba*, with a Supplement to the Preface, and a very copious and important addition to the Notes.

“This work is so fully known, that it would be superfluous to attempt a panegyric upon its merits, even if it were our design to give a critical examen, instead of a chronological list. In answer to all the objections, which have hitherto appeared, we shall briefly urge what he has himself applied to a canon of Dawes, *Ea, nisi machinis impulsâ validioribus, æternum persistet inconcussa.* (Append. in *Toup.* 475.)

"The last work that he published was a third edition of the *Hecuba*. He had also proceeded far in the revision of the other three Plays; but it is perhaps a circumstance seriously to be lamented, that he employed so much time in revising what he had already given to the world, instead of proceeding to correct the text of the remaining Plays. But such was his scrupulous fidelity in regard to the duty of an Editor, and so uncommon his accuracy in every thing which he undertook, that he never fully satisfied himself, and conceived that something still was wanting, where no one but himself could discover any symptom of deficiency.

"We must, however, briefly notice some other of his literary labors, which have hitherto been omitted, as we wished not to interrupt the series of his editions of the Greek Plays. When Heyne's *Virgil* was republished in London, the Professor was engaged to superintend the press. He was, we believe handsomely remunerated; but every Scholar must lament that such a mind, and such attainments, should be employed in merely mechanical labor. In the year 1800, he was engaged in a work, much more suited to his powers, and much more beneficial to literature;—we mean a collation of the Harleian MS of the *Odyssey*; for the edition of Homer, which must ever be considered as a splendid attestation to the learning, taste, and munificence of the Grenville-family. Of this collation the Editors speak in terms so classically appropriate, that we cannot deny ourselves the satisfaction of quoting their words:—

*Istius Codicis collatio, quam humanissime in se suscepit vir eruditissimus, Richardus Porson, et summa cum diligentia peragendam esse statuit, digna esse visa est, quæ per se integra in medium proferretur. Ad calcem itaque Odysseæ subjicimus, non nudam quidem illam, ex indigesta mole ut fit plerumque conflata, sed in eruditorum usum, pro ista Græcæ criticæ scientia, et subacto judicio, quo vir egregius unus omnium maxime eminet, nitide atque affabre elaboratam.*

"It remains for us now to speak of the *Æschylus*, which 'shorn

of its beams,' deprived of the Editor's last corrections, without Notes and without the Fragments, ungraced by the Professor's name and without even a letter of Preface, stole into the world in the year 1806. We are not informed of the circumstances, under which it was at length permitted to appear; but we conclude that the importunity of his friends and of the publishers extorted from him a reluctant consent, although they could not prevail upon him to furnish it with one word of Introduction, still less to enrich it with his latest corrections of the text. Doubtless it has not come forth with half that advantage, either to the Editor, or to the public, that it would have possessed, had it issued from the press as a legitimate edition, the fruit of his last labors, the matured and well-digested effort of his mighty mind. Yet still we thankfully accept it as a great and lasting benefit to Greek literature. In more than two hundred instances the text is improved; for the most part, by the admission of readings, which the Professor's own sagacity discerned amidst a chaos of errors; but in some places also by corrections, which he adopted from preceding editors. A method was pursued by him in this edition, which we earnestly recommend to the imitation of every critic. Where the text appeared faulty, and no emendation offered itself with sufficient authority to warrant its admission into the text, he marked the suspected place with an obelus. Of passages thus pointed out, both as a warning to inexperienced readers, and a guide to future Critics, there are about one hundred and fifty: so that unfortunate as this edition has been, the text is still improved in a greater number of instances than those, in which it continues to be defective. And in regard to the remaining corruptions, we have little doubt but Mr Porson's acuteness would have pointed out a probable remedy in most of the cases, had the work gone on to its end, without the occurrence of that calamitous fraud, which cannot be too much reprobated or deplored.

"From this enumeration, it appears that in point of quantity, the contributions of Professor Porson to the public stock of

knowledge were far from inconsiderable ; in point of merit, they must be deemed invaluable. Whatever he has done, he has done in the best way ; so that his editions may be appealed to as a standard, by which the qualifications of scholars for the office of editor, may be measured, and as a guide, by which their efforts may be directed. There were two qualities in the character of Mr Porson as an Editor, which are of the highest importance, and which, as they are attainable by every individual, it may be useful to notice more particularly :—these are industry and honesty. In collating a MS.,—in pursuing the variations of a reading through editions and lexicographers,—in tracing the usage of a word through the writers of the same age, or upon the same subjects, his patience was never exhausted, his ardor never disconcerted. In point of honesty, whether it consisted in a scrupulous attention to the claims of his author, or those of his critical predecessors, his character appears the more illustrious, because it is more rare. Never would he allow a passage to be pronounced corrupt, without the fullest investigation, nor did he think himself authorised to admit any emendation into the text without a very strong preponderance of evidence in its favor. When a text was manifestly corrupt, he would not disturb it, for the sake of admitting a plausible conjecture, because he held, and rightly held, that such a proceeding destroyed the traces of that evidence, by which the original reading might in time be restored. In like manner, whatsoever merit any previous Editor might possess, he invariably assigned to each his due portion of praise ; and so far from suppressing what redounded to their credit, or adopting as his own what was in fact the property of another, he seemed to take a pleasure in bringing forward to his reader's notice every instance of happy discernment, or ingenious illustration: For these qualities, added to his unrivalled skill in decyphering MSS., and to his penetration in discovering the scope of a passage, and the very words, which an author was likely to have used ; recollecting also that he possessed a judgment, which steered an even course between

precipitation and timidity, we have no hesitation in repeating that we consider him to have been a complete critic.

"The works of Michael Angelo have been recommended to young artists, as the great model of excellence, and most worthy object of their imitation. In like manner would we most earnestly exhort every one, who aspires to the name of a Scholar, to regard the productions of Professor Porson as the study, by which he is most likely to improve.

"Nov. 10, 1848.

HELLENOPHILUS."

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*"Compositions of PROFESSOR PORSON.*

"Among the various distinctions, which are conferred upon proficiency in classical literature in the University of Cambridge, the most honorable are the Craven or University-Scholarships, both because they are more rarely vacant, and because they are open to the competition of all Undergraduates whatsoever. To one of these scholarships Mr Porson succeeded at the latter end of 1781. In the course of his examination he produced a translation from an English Epitaph into Greek Verse, which excited general admiration at the time, and which cannot but be regarded as an earnest of the unrivalled eminence he was afterwards destined to attain in the knowledge of that most difficult language. As a copy of this performance is now lying before us, we shall give it to our readers,\* premising, however, that we insert it as a

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\* "We print this the more readily because in A Short Account of the Late Mr Richard Porson, it is mentioned in such a manner, as to convey the idea that it was an elaborate and finished performance. The original appeared first, we believe, in the Gentleman's Magazine, Nov. 1781, and is as follows :

Stranger ! whoe'er thou art, that view'st this tomb,  
 Know that here lies, in the cold arms of death,  
 The young ALEXIS. Gentle was his soul  
 As softest music,—to the charms of love  
 Not cold, nor to the social charities  
 Of mild humanity ;—in yonder grove  
 He wooed the willing Muse, SIMPLICITY

literary curiosity, and not as a finished composition. The extraordinary acuteness and diligence of the writer enabled him, in the subsequent progress of his studies, to discover many peculiarities in the metres of the ancients, which had never been before observed. We are, therefore, enabled by the assistance of the professor to discover faults in this early specimen of his powers, which, however, but for him, would have escaped the most critical eye. We particularly allude to the violation of the rule, which is so accurately laid down, and so fully illustrated, Supp. ad Præf. Hec. p. xxx. With this observation the following Translation of an English Inscription, written in a limited time, at an early age, amidst the anxiety of an examination, and without any books to refer to, will surely be considered as not unworthy the fame of professor Porson.

ἘΠΙΤΑΦΙΟΝ.

ὦ ξεῖνε, τοῦτον ὅστις εἰσορᾷς τάφον,  
 Ἴσθ', ὡς ὃδ' ἔνδον σώμ' Ἀλέξιδος νέου,  
 Ψυχρὸν παραγκάλισμα Ταρτάρου, στέγει.  
 Μολπῆς γλυκυτάτης αἰμυλώτερος φρένας,  
 Οὐδ' ἦν ἄθικτος Κύπριδος τερπνῷ βέλει.  
 Οὐδ' αὖ πάρωσε τὸν φιλάνθρωπον τρόπον,  
 Ἀρθμὸν θ' ἐταίρων, ἀλλ' ἐκεῖν' ἄλσος κάτα  
 Ἐκοῦσαν ἐζήτησε Μοῦσαν, Χρηστότης τ'  
 Ἐγέλα παραστᾶσ'· αἶν ἐκάστης ἐνθάδε  
 Νυκτὸς παρούσαι, αἱ ῥεταί τε καὶ καλαὶ  
 Χάριτες συνωμίλησαν, εἶτα τὸν φίλον  
 Ποθοῦς ἔραστην δυσθρόφῳ μελφδίᾳ,  
 Ὅν ἄρτι θάλλοντ' ἡρωῶ καιρῷ βίου

---

Stood by and smiled ;—here every night they come,  
 And with the VIRTUES and the GRACES, join  
 The note of woe, weeping their favorite,  
 Slain in his bloom, in the fair prime of life !  
 Would he had lived !' alas, in vain that wish  
 Escapes thee :—never, STRANGER, shalt thou see  
 The youth ;—HE'S DEAD, THE VIRTUOUS SOONEST DIE !

*Ἐδρέψαθ' Αἰδης· εἴθ' ἔτ' ἐν ζωοῖσιν ἦν·  
 Εὐχὴ μάτην ἄρ', ὧ ξέν', ἦδε τὸ στόμα  
 Πέφειγεν, οὐ γὰρ οὔποτε εἰσάψει νέον·  
 Τέθνηχ', ὃ δὴ τάχιστα πάσχει' οἱ ῥαθοί.*

Another composition, which we are persuaded our readers will be glad to possess in its original and authentic form, is a version of Three Children Sliding on the Ice.\* The Letter accompanying it, as will easily be perceived, is a most humorous allusion to a certain celebrated forgery, which was attempted under the name of Shakespeare. This admirable specimen of the wit as well as learning of professor Porson, appeared in a periodical work, called the Watchman, about the year 1796, and with it we shall for the present conclude the series of papers, which feelings of warm personal regard, as well as the wish to satisfy the natural and laudable curiosity of the public, rendered us anxious to prepare, as an affectionate and respectful, although an imperfect, tribute to the memory of Richard Porson.

#### TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,

As a learned friend of mine was rummaging an old trunk the

\* The English original is given for the benefit of the learned reader :

Three children sliding on the ice,  
 All on a summer's day ;  
 As it fell out they all fell in,  
 The rest they ran away.  
 Now had these children been at school,  
 Sliding upon dry ground,  
 Ten thousand pounds to one penny,  
 They had not all been drowned.'

Songs for the Nursery, Collected from the most Renowned Poets, and Adapted to Favorite National Melodies, London, 1832, 12mo. p. 50.

The Greek and Latin Versions of Porson, with the Letter, are given by my excellent friend, the Rev. T. Kidd, in his Tracts and Miscellaneous Criticisms of Porson, pp. lxxx. 154. from the Morning Chronicle, April 13, 1796, with some variations, and additions, which will be noticed.

E. H. B.

other day, he discovered a false bottom, which, on examination, proved to be full of old parchments. But what was his joy and surprise, when he discovered that the contents were neither more nor less than some of the lost Tragedies of Sophocles! As the writing is difficult, and the traces of the letters somewhat faded, he proceeds slowly in the task of decyphering. When he has finished, the entire Tragedies will be given to the public. In the mean time I send you the following Fragments, which my friend communicated to me, and which all real critics will concur with me, I doubt not, in determining to be the genuine production of that ancient Dramatist. His characteristics are simplicity and sententiousness. [For instance, what can be more simple and sententious than the opening of the Trachiniæ?—It is an old saying, that has appeared among mankind, that you cannot be certain of the life of mortals, before one dies, whether it be good or evil.] These qualities, too, are conspicuous in the following Iambics, which contain a seasonable caution to parents against rashly trusting children out of their sight. Though your paper is chiefly occupied in plain English, you may sometimes gratify your learned readers with a little Greek; therefore give them this, if you think that it will gratify them. For the benefit of those whose Greek is rather rusty with disuse, I have added a Latin Version, which, I hope, is as pure and perspicuous as Latin Versions of Greek Tragedies generally are.

*I am, Sir, etc.*

S. ENGLAND.'

Κρυσταλλοπήκτους τρίπτυχοι κόροι ῥοὰς  
 "Ὡρα θέρους ψαίροντες εὐτάρσοις ποσὶ,  
 Δίνας ἐπιπτον, οἷα δὴ πίπτειν φιλεῖ,  
 "Ἀπαντες· εἴτ' ἔφενγον οἱ λελειμμένοι.  
 'Ἀλλ' εἴπερ ἦσαν ἐγκεκλεισμένοι μοχλοῖς,  
 "Ἡ ποσὶν ὀλισθάνοντες ἐν ξηρῷ πέδῳ,  
 Χρυσῶν ἂν ἠθέλησα περιδῶσθαι σταθμῶν,  
 Εἰ μὴ μέρος τι τῶν νέων ἔσώζετο.  
 'Ἀλλ,' ὦ τοκεῖς, ὅσοις μὲν ὄντα τυγχάνει,

‘Οσοις δὲ μὴ, βλαστήματ’ εὐτέκνου σπορᾶς,  
 ‘Ἦν εὐτυχεῖς εὐχρησθε τὰς θύρας ὁδοὺς  
 Τοῖς παισὶν, εὖ σφᾶς ἐν δόμοις φυλάσσετε.

Glacie-durata triplices pueri fluenta  
 Tempestate æstatis radentes pluchras-plantas-habentibus pedibus,  
 In vortices ceciderunt, ut sane accidere solet,  
 Omnes; deinde effugerunt reliqui.  
 Sin autem inclusi essent vectibus,  
 Aut pedibus labantes in arido campo,  
 Auri ponderis sponsione libenter contenderem,  
 Partem aliquam juvenum servari potuisse.  
 At, O parentes, tum vos quibus esse contigit,  
 Tum vos, quibus non contigit, germina pulchros-fillos-procreantis segetis,  
 Si felices optatis extra-domos itiones  
 Pueris vestris, bene eos intra domos servate.

*Aut PROFESSOR aut DIABOLUS.*

HELLENOPHILUS.

*Cambridge, Dec. 13, 1808."*

DR AIKIN'S *Athenæum*, Nov. and Dec. 1808, p. 426.

521. Jan. 1809, pp. 1. 55. (The Article is generally  
 attributed to the learned and amiable DR MALTSBY).

X. PORSON'S REVIEW OF THE 'SOVEREIGN BY C. M. PYBUS, M. P.'

"This truly neat specimen of playful criticism is too closely connected with the political lucubrations of Laurentius to be inserted in this collection. On first opening this splendid volume in the presence of one or more friends, and reading a few lines, R. P. said or sung:

'And when the pie was opened,  
 'The birds began to sing,  
 'And is not this a dainty dish  
 'To set before the KING?'"

KIDD'S *Tracts and Miscellaneous Criticisms*, p. LXXIV.

*Critique by Porson, from the Monthly Review, Dec. 1800, pp. 378—80.*

“The Sovereign, addressed to his Imperial Majesty, Paul, emperor of all the Russias, by Charles Small Pybus, M. P. one of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury. Folio, pp. 60, pr. £1. 1s. 0d. or with a portrait, £1. 11s. 6d. 1800, White.

“The inventive genius of modern times appears with peculiar lustre in that new species of the sublime, of which the magnificent poem before us is an astonishing example. The gigantic types, the folio wove-paper, and the awe-inspiring portrait, like the ‘vultus instantis tyranni,’ have superseded the old rules of Longinus, and have forced admiration from the appalled beholder, even before he reads. Mr Pybus is certainly ‘as tall a poet of his hands,’ as any wight, that has issued from the press within our memory; and he may vie for title-page, print, and margin, with the first of our bards. When, however, we have bestowed this praise on his work, we have exhausted every source of panegyric; for his verses are formed only to be viewed, not to be perused. His poetry is so like a picture, (according to the Horatian precept,) that it will not bear the near approach of the eye.

“The happy alliteration resulting from the title, A poem to Paul by the poet Pybus, reminds us of a Latin work, entitled ‘Pugna porcorum per Publium Porcium, poetam.’\* Though this work is addressed to the Emperor Paul, it is, with inimitable dexterity, dedicated to our own King. This is a flight of courtly wit, which perhaps will never again be attempted; and the amazing resemblance, which Mr P. has asserted between the illustrious personages, to one of whom he addresses his address to the other, will be ranked by posterity among the most unexpected discoveries of the present age.

“To compress the shining lines of Mr Pybus into our narrow and unadorned pages, is, (like translating Virgil) to lose all the

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\* This was the composition of David Francesco Lates: — “Versus ex vocabulis, quorum idem initium est, constantes; Pugna Porcorum per P.

beauty of the original ; but we shall endeavour to gratify our friends in the country with a specimen of this state-performance, in the address to Peter I, and his ill-fated descendant ;

Illustrious shade, O ! could thy soul infuse  
Its faint resemblance in the anxious Muse,  
Then in sublimer song her voice should raise  
Strains less unequal to her hero's praise.  
But what at last avails the poet's fire ?  
Vain are his honors, and his boasted lyre ;

Porcium, Poetam. Editio Decima Sexta, De Novo Recognita et Innume-  
ris in Locis Aucta et Emendata, Oxford, 1768, 4to. pp 16. Printed for  
David Francesco Lates, Master of the French, Italian, Spanish, Portu-  
guese, Hebrew, and Chaldee Languages, etc. (and who by permission of  
the Vice-Chancellor, teaches them in that University,) and sold by him at  
his house in Gloucester-Green." It consists of 248 lines, and opens with  
these lines :

Plaudite porcelli, porcorum pigra propago  
Progreditur, plures porci pinguedine pleni  
Pugnantes pergunt, pecudum pars prodigiosa  
Perturbat pede petrosas plerumque plateas,  
Pars portentose populorum prata profanat,  
Fars pungit populando poteus, pars plurima plagis  
Præstendit punire pares, prosternere parvos.  
Primo porcorum perfecti pectore plano  
Pistorum porci prostant pinguedine pulchri,  
Pugnantes prohibent porcellos ponere pœnas  
Præsumunt pravis porro plebs pessima pergit.  
Protrevire prius, post profligare petentes.

Whether in these lines any sense lies buried, or whether words with the right initial were taken at random by the sublime Poet, is left to the reader himself to determine ; certainly the ' lucid order' of arrangement in ideas, expressions, and punctuation is not very apparent ! Mr David Francesco Lates was, it seems, the author of a " A New Method of Easily Attaining the Italian Language, according to the Instructions of Signor Veneroni, with a French and English Translation, Enlarged with many Rules Necessary to be Known, and Corrected according to the Modern Orthography, Dedicated to the Right Hon. John, Earl of Westmoreland, Baron Le Despenser, and Chancellor of the University of Oxford. See a Notice of it in the Monthly Review, May, 1766. E. H. B.

Vain is the laurel, that adorns his brow ;  
 Vain are his numbers, nor can all bestow,  
 But from their deathless theme alone receive  
 The fame not e'en MÆONIDES could give.  
 Since, then, establish'd glory thus defies  
 The pow'r of poesy, that never dies,  
 How much more vain are offerings alone,  
 Compos'd of perishable brass and stone,  
 Though quarries were consum'd and millions spent,  
 When the whole empire forms one monument !  
 And thou, ill-fated PRINCE, whom discord gave  
 An early victim to misfortune's grave,  
 Whate'er thy frailties were, (and who has none ?)  
 Amply thy greater virtues shall atone,  
 Whose heralds on the wings of mercy crost  
 The trackless deserts of SIBERIAN frost.  
 Thee, coward cruelty in horrors dight,  
 And mean suspicion, that avoids the light,  
 And persecution with tormenting flame,  
 Shall ever execrate, and hate thy name,  
 While freedom's gratitude, and pity's tear  
 Shall drop a tribute on thy mournful bier.  
 But Heaven will'd nor let thy realms deplore,  
 The mix'd event, and left one PETER more.

This other Peter, it seems, means the late Empress : who by a poetical licence, which can only be derived from royal authority, is here invested with the name of her husband. Perhaps Mr Pybus had been thinking of a passage in Shakespeare,

And if his name be GEORGE, I'll call him PETER.

In truth, the author seems liable to mistakes of this kind ; for we observe that some of his couplets terminate with words, which have not even so much affinity with each other, as that which subsisted between Peter and Catharine :—

Rhymes, like Scotch cousins, in such order plac'd,

The first scarce claims acquaintance with the last.

Considered in its political relations, Mr P.'s work is not less unfortunate than in its literary station. After the high and splendid hopes of curbing France, which are held out in the

poem, comes a dolorous prose-epilogue to inform us that the glory of Europe is blasted, and that the Emperor has withdrawn his troops !—Subsequent occurrences have lamentably deepened the gloom of this disappointment ; and we sincerely condole with Mr Pybus on the ungracious return, which this Northern Mæcenas has made to the British Treasury both for its ‘ solid pudding, and its empty praise.’ ”

*The Monthly Review*, Dec. 1800. pp. 378-80.

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XI. FROM THE SUPPLEMENT TO THE FOURTH, FIFTH, AND SIXTH EDITIONS OF THE ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA.

“ Porson, (Richard) the greatest of the verbal Critics and Classical Scholars of modern times, Dec. born 25, 1759, was the son of Mr Huggin Porson, Parish-Clerk of East-Ruston, near North-Walsham, in Norfolk.

“ His father taught him, in his childhood, to practise all the common rules of arithmetic by memory only ; and, before he was nine years old, he had learned to extract the cube-root in this manner. He employed, at the same time, for teaching him to read and write, the method, which has since been generally introduced in the schools of mutual instruction, making him draw the letters with chalk, or on sand ; and the neatness and accuracy of his hand-writing, for which he was distinguished through life, may be considered as bearing ample testimony to his father’s ingenuity and success.

“ At the age of 9, he was sent to the Village-School, kept by a Mr Summers ; but his father still made him repeat by heart in the evening the whole of the lessons of the day, and there seems to be sufficient evidence for considering this practice of exercising the memory continually, in very early life, as the best, if not the only method of cultivating, if not of producing, great talent. For though a strong memory by no means constitutes talents, yet its possession is almost a necessary condition for the successful exertion of talent in general, and indeed it is very possible that the other faculties of the mind may be strengthened by the early

cultivation of this one. It is remarkable that Wallis, who was as deservedly celebrated in his day as Porson, for his unerring sagacity, had also a singular facility of retaining numbers and calculations in his memory, but without having taken any particular pains to acquire the habit. Mr Hewitt, the Vicar of the Parish of East-Ruston, hearing of young Porson's uncommon capacity, undertook to instruct both him and his brother Thomas in Classical literature ; and when he was about 15, Mr Norris, a wealthy and respectable gentleman of the neighbourhood, having ascertained the truth of the reports, that he heard of him, resolved to be at the expense of sending him to Eton. Without this assistance it would have been impossible for Porson to have acquired great excellence in any intellectual pursuit ; for his father's situation in life was not such as to exempt his son even from the subordinate occupations of the country. He went out gleaning, in the autumn, with a Horace in his pocket ; and he had learned by experience to appreciate the mechanical labors of Penelope, before he was much acquainted with the wisdom and wanderings of Ulysses.

“ At Eton his talents procured him the friendship and admiration of the seniors among his schoolfellows, and upon the unfortunate death of his first patron, Mr Norris, he found a number of liberal contributors, who stepped forward to supply the deficiency ; but by far the most active of them was Sir George Baker, then President of the Royal College of Physicians, a man as much distinguished by his own Classical taste and acquirements, as by his laudable disposition to cherish learning in others. He received the boy into his house for a vacation, and undertook, at the request of a relation of Mr Norris, the disagreeable task of receiving, in small sums, as much as was sufficient to purchase an income of £80 a year for a few years, in the Short Annuities, which served, with great economy, to enable him to remain at Eton. This favor appears to have been too great to be properly acknowledged, or perhaps even duly appreciated by its object, who only after many years paid Sir George the tardy compliment of a dedication, not however, of an edition, but of a handsome copy of a single

Play of Euripides. In his own opinion, Porson learned little at Eton besides the quantity of syllables, being able to repeat by heart, before he went there, the principal part of the authors, that he had to read ; that is, almost the whole of Horace and Virgil, and the Iliad, and many parts of Cicero, Livy, and the Odyssey. A story is accordingly told of his book having been changed by one of his schoolfellows in joke, when he was going up to a lesson in Horace, and of his having read and translated what was required of him, without at all betraying the change to the master. At the same time the emulation of a Public school must have been a great advantage to him, as affording him a motive for exertion in his exercises, whether they were to be called his own, or to be written for other boys. It was a copy of Toup's Longinus, presented to him as a reward for a good exercise, that first gave him a decided inclination for the pursuit of critical researches ; but he always considered Bentley and Dawes as his great masters in criticism.

" In 1777, he was sent to Trinity-College, Cambridge, and at first he began to apply more particularly to the Mathematics, which had been the favorite study of his boyhood, and in which, as he himself remarked, his proficiency first brought him into a certain degree of public notice. He was, however, soon diverted from the pursuit, although he obtained a place among the Senior-optimes of his year. But he was in fact more calculated for Classical than for Mathematical excellence ; his memory would have been in great measure thrown away, if he had been employed in abstract calculations ; and his inventive powers do not appear to have been at all of the same class with his retentive faculties ; although certainly in the mechanical pursuit of the fashionable methods of modern analysis, which are intended, like steam-engines, to overcome all difficulties by the inanimate forces of mere patience and perserverance, he was capable of filling as distinguished a place as any living algebraist. The Classical Prize-Medal, and the University-Scholarship, he obtained without difficulty as matters of course. The exercise, which he exhibited

upon the examination for the scholarship, is the well-known translation of an Epitaph into Greek Iambics, which, although not free from some inaccuracies in the use of the tenses, is still a very remarkable production, when it is considered as having been completed in less than an hour, with the help of Morell's Thesaurus only, and never afterwards corrected.

“He obtained a Fellowship of Trinity-College in 1781, and took his degree of Master of arts in 1785; but not thinking it right to subscribe to the Articles of the Church of England, he could not enter into Orders, and he was therefore unavoidably deprived of his Fellowship in 1791, having no dependence left for his subsistence through life, but his abilities and acquirements. His friends, however, did not abandon him on this urgent occasion, and in order to keep him out of actual want, a private subscription was set on foot, to which Mr Cracherode was one of the principal contributors, and by which enough was raised to purchase him an Annuity of about £100 a year for life. A small addition was made to his income, about two years after, by his election to the Greek-Professorship at Cambridge, with a salary of only £40 a year. The situation, however, gave him the option of at least doubling his whole receipts, by the delivery of an Annual Course of Lectures in the University; and it was supposed that he would have made this exertion, if he had not been discouraged by the difficulty of obtaining rooms in his College, where it would have been his wish to reside.

“He married, in 1795, Mrs Lunan, a sister of the late Mr Perry, well known as the Editor of the *Morning-Chronicle*, but he had the misfortune to lose his wife two years afterwards. Mr Perry continued to be his greatest friend through life, and was so far his best benefactor, as he knew how to oblige him essentially, without the appearance of doing him a favor. Porson had sometimes chambers in the Temple, and sometimes he lodged at the *Morning-Chronicle* Office; frequently also he was a visitor at Mr Perry's house at Merton, where he had the misfortune to leave several of his books at the time of a fire, which destroyed them all

and among them some Letters of Ruhnkenius, (with whom he had begun a correspondence in 1783, and who had communicated to him some valuable fragments of *Æschylus*,) besides his manuscript copy of the *Lexicon* of Photius, which had cost him 10 months' labor. He used indeed to say that this fire had destroyed the fruits of 20 years of his life; but he had the resolution to complete a second copy of the Photius, which is now in the Library of Trinity-College. His fondness for the mechanical employment of his pen has been regretted by some of his biographers, as having tempted him to waste much of his most valuable time on a trifling amusement; but in fact his mode of writing Greek was fully as much calculated for expedition as for beauty; and those, who have not been in the habit of correcting mutilated passages of MSS., can form no estimate of the immense advantage, that is obtained by the complete sifting of every letter, which the mind involuntarily performs, while the hand is occupied in tracing it: so that, if the correction of Photius was really worth the labor of two years of Porson's life, it would have been scarcely possible to employ the greater part of those years more advantageously than by copying him twice over. Mr Weston, in speaking of his 'matchless penmanship,' has observed, not very intelligibly, that 'here indeed he thought himself surpassed by another person,' [Dr Young,] "'not in the stroke, but the sweep of his letters.' What Porson really said on this subject, was that with respect to 'command of hand,' that person had the advantage, but he preferred the model, on which his own hand was formed. His writing was in fact more like that of a scholar, while the method, explained in Mr Hodgkin's *Calligraphia*, exhibits more the appearance of the work of a writing-master; holding, however, a middle place between the neatness of Porson, and the wonderful accuracy of the country-schoolmaster, who made the fac-simile of the Oxford-Pindar in the British Museum.

"Upon the establishment of the London-Institution, his friends obtained for him the very desirable appointment of principal Librarian, with a salary of £200 a year, and apartments in the

house of the Institution, which was then in the Old-Jewry ; but, although the arrangement was highly honorable to all parties, the Librarianship was little more than a sinecure. Porson was, however, in the habit of attending in his place, when the Reading-room was open, and of communicating, very readily, all the literary information, that was required by those who consulted him, respecting the object of their researches. Had the inhabitants of Finsbury-Square, and its neighbourhood, been more disposed to Classical studies, and had the Librarian of the Institution survived to witness its completion and prosperity, his sphere of utility would without doubt have been greatly extended.

“ But it must ever be lamented that Porson’s habits of life had unfortunately been such, as to lay a foundation for a multitude of diseases ; he suffered much from asthma throughout the year 1808 ; his memory began to fail him a little ; and in the autumn he had some symptoms of intermittent fever. On Monday, Sept. 19, he had an apoplectic attack in the street, and he was carried to a neighbouring poor-house in a state of insensibility. The next day an advertisement appeared in one of the papers, relating the accident, and describing some MSS., which were found in his pocket, consisting of Greek fragments, and algebraical characters. His friends at the London-Institution immediately went in quest of him. He was afterwards well enough to appear in the Library, and to receive a visit there from Dr Adam Clarke ; but his speech was impaired, and his faculties evidently imperfect. He survived only through the week, and died in his 49th year, on Sunday, Sept. 25, 1808, at midnight.

“ He was buried at Cambridge, in Trinity-College Chapel, near the grave of Bentley, and the monument of Newton. He founded by will an Annual Prize, to be given to the best Greek translation from an English Dramatic Author ; and several specimens of the successful pieces have been published from time to time in the Classical Journal. His books were sold by auction, and many of them found purchasers at high prices, especially such as were enriched with any of his MS. notes in their margin ; but more than

200 of these, which appeared to be the most valuable, were withheld from the sale, and were afterwards purchased, together with the whole of his MS. papers, by the Society of Trinity-College for the sum of 1000 guineas. He left a sister married to Siday Hawes Esq., of Coltishall, Norfolk. His brother Thomas, kept a boarding-school at Fakenham, and died without issue in 1792. His second brother, Henry, was a farmer in Essex, and died young, leaving three children. His father had lived to 74, his mother to 57.

"The principal works of Porson are his Letters to Travis, his four Plays of Euripides, with their prefaces, and the MS. copy of Photius; the rest, though somewhat voluminous, are chiefly miscellaneous annotations on detached passages of a multitude of ancient Authors. We find nothing in the nature of theory, or of the discovery of general laws, except some canons, which he has laid down, chiefly as having been used by the Greek Tragedians in the construction of their verses. These are chiefly contained in the preface to the Hecuba, together with its Supplement. 1. The first is that, when a Tragic iambic ends with a trisyllable, or a cretic, this word must be preceded either by a short syllable, or by a monosyllable. For example, an ancient Tragedian would not have written the line,

*Ἔχου δὲ μήποτ' ἐξ ἀπευκτοῦ σώματος,*

though it might have been unexceptionable in a Comedy. It seems to have been about the year 1790, that Porson first made this observation; he certainly did not attend to it in his own serious Translation of the Epitaph on Alexis, but it was mentioned in 1791, by one of Porson's intimate friends, in a moment of conviviality, while he was somewhat characteristically attempting to fill his glass out of an empty bottle, and the author of this article observed in answer, that it would certainly sound better on such an occasion, as then occurred, to say,

*Πᾶν ἐκπέπωκας, οὐδ' ἔνεστί κότταβος,*

than,

————— οὐ λέλειπται κότταβος.

2. The second canon is that an anapæst is only admissible in a Tragic iambic, as containing the first foot, except in some cases of proper names : this indeed hath been cursorily hinted by Dawes. 3. The same Critic had also remarked that the Attic Poets never lengthen a short vowel before a mute or an aspirate, followed by a liquid, or a middle consonant followed by  $\rho$ , and Porson more amply confirmed the observation as very generally, though not universally correct. On the other hand, Dawes had cursorily observed that Homer, and the other ancient Epic Poets, generally lengthened the vowel in such cases, and Porson's great rival, Hermann, has more fully established this distinction, as affording a good criterion of antiquity. 4. There are also some original remarks of Porson on the cæsure, in iambics, and trochaics, and anapæsts. He shewed that the Scenic poets do not elide the final iota, and that the Tragedians do not employ the preposition  $\pi\epsilon\rho\iota$  before a vowel ; and some other general laws, of greater importance than these, may probably be found in some of his publications, which it will now be necessary to enumerate in the order of time.

1. His first attempts as an author, consisted of some anonymous Articles in Dr Maty's Review, beginning with a part of Schutz's *Æschylus*, June, 1783. (Tracts ii. ;) Brunck's *Aristophanes*, July, 1783. (Tracts iii. Mus. Crit. 2, 113.) written in a day, (in Latin by Schæfer, *Class. Journ.* 5, 136. ;) Weston's *Hermesianax*, (Tracts iv. ;) Huntingford's Apology for his *Monostrophics*, Aug. 1784. (Tracts v. ;) Account of the Learned Pig, April, 1785. (Tracts vi. ;) Note with Letters of Le Clerc and Bentley, April, 1786. (Tracts vii.)

2. He added some Notes to an edition of Xenophon's *Anabasis*, published by Nicholson at Cambridge, 4to. and 8vo, 1786. They are addressed *Lectori, si quis erit*.

3. Three Panegyrical Epistles to Sir John Hawkins, *Gent. Magazine*, Aug. Sept. Oct. 1787. (Tracts ix.)

4. Notes on *Toupîi Emendationes* in Suidam, Oxf. 1790, 8vo. written in the year 1787.

5. Letters on the Three Witnesses, *Gent. Mag.* Oct. Dec. 1788. Febr. April, May, June, Aug. 1789. Febr. 1790. The last reprinted, Tracts xix.; most of the others in the collection of Letters to Mr Archdeacon Travis, in answer to his defence of the Three Heavenly Witnesses, Lond. 1790, 8vo. These Letters are generally considered by critics of all parties, as finally decisive of a question, which had often been agitated before, but never so learnedly argued, nor so satisfactorily discussed in all its bearings.

6. "In the Monthly Review, Robertson's Essay on the Parian Chronicle, Jan. 1789. (Tracts xiii.) satisfactorily answering the principal part of the objections alleged against the authenticity of that monument; Edwards's edition of the work attributed to Plutarch, on Education, July, 1793. (Tracts xxi.) Payne Knight's Greek Alphabet, Jan. 1794. (Tracts xxiii.) Pybus's Sovereign, Dec. 1800, an article affording a good specimen of his talent for humor.

7. "He is supposed to have written some Remarks on an Essay upon the Transfiguration, but never expressly acknowledged them, (Tracts xv.)

8. "He added a few short Notes to the London-edition of Heyne's Virgil, 1793, 8vo. for which he made an agreement with the bookseller to correct the press, but he complained that his corrections were disregarded; and in fact several hundred errors, of no great importance, were suffered to disfigure it.

9. "He corrected the Greek text of *Æschylus* for the Glasgow-editions, the folio of 1795, and the two volumes octavo, printed in 1794, but only published London, 1806. The folio is said to have appeared surreptitiously. There are more than 200 original corrections, and a further number of passages pointed out as corrupt.

10. "In the Morning-Chronicle he published, at different times, a variety of spirited articles of a temporary nature. One of the most amusing was the Nursery-Song in Greek Iambics, April

13, 1796. called a Fragment of Sophocles, and signed S. England, in ridicule of Ireland's pretended discoveries.

11. "Imitations of Horace, Spirit of the Public Journals, 1797, Classical Journal, 4, 97.

12. "The first four Plays of Euripides appeared separately at different periods. The *Hecuba*, Lond. 1797, 8vo, Cambridge, 1802, with a Supplement and Additional Notes, which were also published separately, Lond. 1808.; *Orestes*, Lond. 1798. 1811.; *Phœnissæ*, Lond. 1799. 1811.; *Medea*, Cambridge, 1801.; Lond. 1812.; the four together, Lond. 1822.

13. "Collation of the Harleian MS. of the *Odyssey* for the Grenville-Homer, Oxf. 1800. 4to with some short Notes; reprinted Class. Journ. ix.

14. "Of the Review of Wakefield's *Lucretius*, in the *British Critic* for May, 1801, the principal part appears to be Porson's.

15. "A Letter signed J. N. Dawes, *Monthly-Mag.* Dec. 1802, on some Greek constructions, admitting also an inaccuracy of his own with respect to a hiatus, pointed out by Mr C. Falconer.

16. "A Letter to Professor Dalzel, dated Sept. 1803, *Mus. Crit.* 1, 326. in answer to some remarks, published in the Professor's *Collectanea Majora*, with an Epigram respecting Hermann in Greek, and in English.

17. "Herodotus, Edinburgh, 1806. Porson corrected the press for the first volume.

18. "Supplement to some Indices, *Tracts*, xxxvi.

19. "It is well known that Porson bestowed considerable pains on the restoration of the text of the Rosetta-Stone. His Supplements were added to the Plates, engraved by the Society of Antiquaries; they also appear among his *Tracts* xxxvii. In Dr Clarke's *Greek Marbles*, Cambridge, 1809, 8vo, we find a translation of this Inscription communicated to the Editor by Porson, and printed from 'a corrected copy in his own beautiful handwriting'; but we may here venture to apply Porson's favorite remark on the facility of transposition, and to read 'a copy corrected in his own writing,' that is, on the margin of Mr

Gough's Translation, as published in Duane's Coins; for the whole is very negligently performed, and it is not a little remarkable that this Translation, which was at least approved by Porson, is decidedly less accurate than the Latin Translation of Heyne, as appears from the investigation of the enchorical Inscription, published in the 6th No. of the Museum Criticum.

20. "A variety of Porson's fugitive and miscellaneous pieces have reappeared at different times in the Classical Journal:—Authors Cited by the Scholiast on Plato, 2, 619. Tracts xxxviii.; the Epitaph, 3, 233. more correctly than in the Tracts, but still with a gross error in the punctuation of the last line, which stands in a MS. copy of his own,

*Τέθνηχ', ὃ δὴ τάχιστα πάσχουσ' οἱ ῥαθοί.*

This reading, though not very elegant, is at least more defensible, than to make *πάσχειν* alone signify to die, and a phrase to end with *ὃ δὴ*. A Charade in Latin, 7, 248.; some Notes on Æschylus, 7, 456. 8, 15. 181. 10, 114.; a property of the Lines, Employed in the 47th proposition of the First Book of Euclid, p. 401.; Notes on Apollonius Rhodius, 18, 370.

21. "Adversaria, Cambridge, 1812, 8vo. consisting of Notes on the Greek poets, selected from his MSS. and arranged by professor Monk and C. J. Blomfield, M. A. The first article is an interesting Lecture on Euripides, delivered upon his appointment to the Greek professorship. It is followed by a few miscellaneous observations, and by a large collection of Notes on Athenæus,—on Euripides,—on the Fragments of the Tragic and Comic Poets,—on Stobæus,—and on a variety of poets of miscellaneous descriptions. The volume was reprinted at Amsterdam without any alteration; but the sale of the foreign edition has never been permitted in Great Britain.

22. "Tracts and Miscellaneous Criticisms, collected and arranged by the Rev. T. Kidd, M. A. Lond. 1815. 8vo. Besides the Articles already noticed as reprinted in this volume, there are a few Notes on Dawes's Miscellanea Critica, not before published, XLL; some Supplementary pages of Simplicius and Cebes,

reprinted by Porson, for the use of his friends, as restored by Schweighäuser. The want of this leaf of the MS. of Simplicius had given rise to the mistaken assertion, that Xenophon was proclaimed a public benefactor at the Olympic games on occasion of the return of the Ten Thousand. There are also some miscellaneous Notes on Athenæus, Menander, and Philemon, Aristides, Pausanias, and the Lexicographers, and some Indices of Authors, quoted by Scholiasts.

23. "Notæ in Aristophanem, quibus 'Plutum' Comœdiam Adjecit P. P. Dobree, Cambr. 1820. 8vo.

24. "Gaisford's Lectiones Platonicae, accedunt R. Porsoni Notæ ad Pausaniam, Oxf. 1820. 8vo.

25. "Photii Lexicon, Cambridge, 1822. 8vo.

"To attempt to form a just estimate of the merit of such a man as Porson, without servilely following the dictates of common fame, and blindly adopting the opinions of others, is a task of no small difficulty even to one, who had the advantage of his personal acquaintance for the last 20 years of his life. But it may safely be conceded to common fame, and to partial friendship, that he was one of the greatest critics of his own, or of any other age. 'Nothing came amiss,' says Mr Weston, 'to his memory; he would set a child right in his two-penny fable-book, repeat the whole of the moral tale of the Dean of Badajoz, a page of Athenæus on cups, or of Eustathius on Homer, even though he did every thing to impair his mental faculties.' It cannot, however, be denied that the talents, and even the industry, that he possessed, might have made him a much greater man, had they been employed in some other department of human intellect. He might probably have been as great a Statesman, or as great a General as Scholar, and in these capacities his acquirements would have affected the interests of a much greater multitude of his fellow creatures, than can ever be benefited by the fruits of his erudition; and he might possibly have gained more popularity as an orator, or a poet, than his refined investigations of grammar and prosody could ever procure him, although it is not by any means certain that his fancy

and invention could have been rendered, by any cultivation, at all comparable to his memory and acuteness. But as far as regards the possession of a combination of the faculties, which he did cultivate, he appears to have been decidedly the most successful of any man on record in the same department. On the other hand, it must be admitted that the subjects of his pursuits were in their nature incapable of raising a man to the first rank among the permanent benefactors of the human race; and if we calmly consider the ultimate objects of prosody and metre, it will appear almost unfair to allow the discoverer of the prosodical rules, adopted by the ancient poets in the Melodramas and Choruses, to rank so very high among the luminaries of an age, and yet look down with so much contempt, as we are accustomed to do, on the character of a modern *Dieu de la Danse*, notwithstanding that he thought himself the third great man of his day, with Voltaire and the King of Prussia, for having given soul and sentiment to the measures and movements of the choric representation of the present times &c.

## XII. VARIOUS EXTRACTS ABOUT PORSON'S DEATH &c.

A gentleman very genteelly dressed was suddenly taken ill yesterday-afternoon about 4 o'clock, near Northumberland Street. He was carried to St. Martin's Workhouse, where every attention, that humanity could dictate, was readily paid to him by the persons there. But it is much to be regretted that medical assistance in such cases cannot always be promptly procured. The gentleman had remained two hours in a fit, when we were informed of the circumstance, and we know not whether he recovered. He appeared to be about 50. He was dressed in a blue coat with yellow buttons, and black satin breeches; he had a gold-watch, and some money in his pockets, but no paper, that indicated his residence. A small memorandum book was found on him, in which were some Greek characters, and algebraic calculations. *The Morning Herald, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 1808.*

We lament to say that at 12 o'clock precisely on Sunday-night, died RICHARD PORSON, M. A., Fellow of Trinity-college, Cambridge, and Greek Professor of the same University; he departed this life after a short illness, at the house of the London Institution, of which he was the principal Librarian. Mr Professor Porson was born on Christmas day, 1768. *Morning-Chronicle, Tuesday-Sept. 27, 1808.*

On Sunday-night died at the London-Institution of which he was Librarian, the GREEK PROFESSOR PORSON, whose literary attainments, and habitual excesses, rendered him for many years the most exalted and the most humiliated of his species. While we recollect the profundity and acuteness of his general knowledge, especially admitted throughout Europe to be the first Greek scholar of his age, and the almost inconceivable capaciousness and extensiveness of his memory, equally embracing the most low and sublime objects, we should be very severe moralists indeed, were we not anxious to bury in eternal oblivion those infirmities, which prevented his exhibiting to the world a genius, which would probably have been more refined, and more powerful, than even the whole annals of literature have hitherto exhibited. *BRITISH PRESS, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 1808.*

This gentleman, who was one of the greatest scholars in Europe, and particularly in knowledge of the Greek language, died on Sunday last at the London-Institution, of which he was Librarian. Unhappily his prudence was not correspondent with his talents, and a devotion to the bottle had gradually been preparing that state of health, which was expected to put a period to his life long ago. He was social and entertaining in private life, nor was there the pride of the scholar observable in his general intercourse with society. It is much to be regretted that his great talents, and profound attainments, should thus have destroyed in the meridian of life a man, who might otherwise have been a

luminary of literature and science. *The Sun, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 1808.*

This wonderful scholar was a man of most extraordinary frame of intellect. The writer of this article has frequently seen him, and heard him, when in a state of inebriety, in which few men of ordinary talents could articulate a word, with dignified deportment, and sonorous utterance, pour forth an hundred successive lines of Homer in the original language, and all for what? To excite the gaping wonder of the greatest part of his audience by what they did not understand, while to the few, who did, it conveyed no information, of which they were not in possession before. Oh! the fruitless labors of more than Herculean memory,—the uselessness of a long life of literary acquirements! *The Public Ledger, Sept. 19, 1808.*

Every friend to literature in this country will be solicitous to have the deficient account of the death of this eminent person supplied. On Monday in the evening (afternoon) of the 19th Sept. as MR PORSON was walking in the Strand, apparently, in perfect health, he was seized with a paroxysm of the epileptic kind, to which he had been subject at a much earlier period of his life. Not being known to the persons, who witnessed his situation, he was conveyed to St Martin's Workhouse, where he continued in a state of total insensibility, until about 6 o'clock on the following morning. He was not then sufficiently collected in his mind to give an account of the place of his residence, and it was by mere accident that one of the attendants at the London-Institution saw a description of a person found in the Strand in the situation stated (in the British Press,) and supposing it to be MR PORSON, he repaired thither, and brought him to the house in the Old Jewry, where he arrived a little before ten, (ten minutes) o'clock on Tuesday-morning. Having called for breakfast, he took his cup of tea in the room of the Library distinguished as the Globe-room, and entered into conversation with some of the gentlemen of the establishment, remarking that the keeper of the

Workhouse was a wag, and endeavoured to pose him with his wit. They observed much incoherence both in his manner and matter, and fearing that he was laboring under some fatal disorder, they thought it right to recommend to him to prepare his will. He at first seemed reluctant, but afterwards assented to the propriety of it, and entered into some general conversation on the moral obligation of disposing of our property after death, adding that the subject had often been treated in a legal way, but scarcely ever in the manner he wished, excepting in a work entitled Symboliography, and he afterwards left the room, and brought one of his Catalogues, into which that book was introduced. He remained in conversation in this way during five hours, sometimes in the full exercise of his faculties, at others wild and wandering, when at three o'clock, he went to Cole's Chop-House, near the Royal Exchange, where he frequently dined. After talking to a friend there, (Mr Wilson the Watch-maker in Threadneedle Street,) he suddenly left the place, proceeded to Cornhill, where looking up at the vane and clock of the Exchange, which had been, (was then,) under repair, a number of persons assembled round, surprised at his fixed attention, the motive of which he did not explain. The Porter of the London Institution, (not correct), happening to observe him in this situation, conducted him back to Cole's, where, on taking two glasses of wine, the paroxysm of insensibility returned, and he was carried home in a coach to the Old Jewry, and remained in a condition of torpor, with very short intermissions until Sunday last, when he died. Perhaps no man not even Rousseau, had more contempt for the practice of physic than Mr PORSON, and yet no one had a more numerous and intimate acquaintance with gentlemen of the medical profession. He was during his illness visited by a great variety of persons in all departments of the pharmaceutic art. Among not the least attentive were Dr Babington and Mr Norris. After his death both his head and body were opened, but no report has yet been made by the gentleman, by whom the operations were conducted. Considering the vulgar notion, it will appear not a little singular

that MR PORSON had one of the thickest skulls, that was ever penetrated by a surgical instrument. The last book he inspected, was in the Globe-room the preceding Tuesday; it contained a curious Greek Inscription in the *Excerpta ex Jacobi Sponii de pagis Atticis*. He had the satisfaction to have completed his *Euripides*, and he was at the time of his death engaged on Photius, who was patriarch of Constantinople in 857, was the most learned and accomplished scholar of his time, and whose *Bibliotheca* is one of the precious remains of antiquity; it contains extracts from 280 different authors, most of the originals of which have long since been consigned to oblivion. *The Times, Saturday, Oct. 1, 1808.*

“This account is very inaccurate.” *w. u. Oct. 8.*

The remains of this most distinguished scholar are to be removed this day, at 11 o'clock, from the house of the London Institution in the Old Jewry, in order to be deposited in the chapel of Trinity-College, Cambridge, near those of the illustrious Dr Bentley, since whose death ancient literature has not sustained so severe a loss. This consideration has induced the board of Seniority of Mr Porson's College, by an unanimous vote, to desire to pay this most honorable tribute of respect to his memory. It shall be our melancholy task to render an account of the ceremony, and also to correct some gross and unfounded statements, which have appeared in one or two of the Papers respecting him. The following is the manner, in which the death of the Professor is announced in the place, where he was known. It is extracted from the CAMBRIDGE-CHRONICLE of Saturday Oct. 1.—

‘Died on Sunday-night at his apartments in the Old Jewry, Richard Porson, M. A. of Trinity-College, and Greek Professor. To the departed names of Bentley, Dawes, Markland, whose classical acquirements so eminently maintained the reputation of this University, we must now add, with heartfelt regret, the name of this admirable Scholar. In variety of information, in depth of learning, he fully equalled his great master. while in critical acumen he far outstripped him. In the happiness and sagacity of his

conjectural emendation, the PROFESSOR had no equal. His Letters to Archdeacon Travis display the keenness and accuracy of his researches, and were considered by an able judge as the first critical production since the memorable controversy concerning the Epistles of Phalaris. Considering his great acquirements, it may perhaps be said that he has not left much, by which posterity may judge him, but what was said of Cotes, is equally true of the PROFESSOR, — *Pauca quidem, sed egregia, sed admiranda*. Every lover of Grecian literature, every real scholar will appreciate the labors of PORSON, not by their number, but by their magnitude. In the few Plays of Euripides, which he edited, they will feel and acknowledge the unshaken excellencies of the canons he has introduced ; they will perceive what is necessary to the formation of a true and generous critic ; and they will unite in deploring that a better portion of vigorous health was not allotted to one, from whom alone they could expect a solution of every difficulty in the progress of their Classical researches. *The Morning-Chronicle*, Oct. 3, 1808.

The late PROFESSOR PORSON was remarkable for having a wonderfully retentive memory,—a memory so very tenacious, that he could quote whole pages from almost any author, and on reading a newspaper once over, he was able at the distance of two hours after, to repeat the whole of its contents almost *literatim et verbatim*. *The Morning-Post*, Oct. 5.

PROFESSOR PORSON, we understand, died in much better circumstances than his friends had reason to suppose. He has left a considerable sum of money in the Funds, and a valuable Library. *The British Press*, Oct. 6.

A learned contemporary writer calls the verses, which were affixed to the pall of the late Professor Porson, by the students of Trinity-College, Epithalamiums ; he is not the first man, who mistook a funeral for a wedding. A certain divine, when called out from a dinner-party, where he had been indulging a little freely,

to bury a corpse, began the ceremony, 'Dearly beloved, we are met together to join this man, and this woman, etc.' *The Times*, Oct. 7, 1808.

In a detailed account of the obsequies performed in honor of the late celebrated Greek Professor, it has occasioned much surprise to read in a morning-paper that on the pall were several Epithalamiums in Latin and Greek. We shall next hear of nuptial joys being ushered in by a funeral dirge. *The Oracle*, Oct. 7, 1808.

We have not seen it mentioned in any of the biographical sketches of the life of the late Professor Porson, that he was the author of a poem, which, though rather too free to be recommended to 'the general,' possesses so much merit, and [so] places him in the novel light of a wit and satirist, that it will be read with pleasure by all men of taste, who in their closets can find humor an apology for an excess of coloring, and a little more warmth of imagination than the schools sanction. We allude to the Parody of Pope's *Abelard and Eloiza*, which is out of print, and scarcely known but to the Professor's private friends. *The Morning-Post*, Oct. 25, 1808.

#### 87. COPYRIGHTS.

June 1, 1838. I got from B ... the following curious list of literary assignments which were sold about two years ago by Evans, together with a collection of miscellaneous autographs. Some of these assignments disclose the authors of several books that had been published anonymously.

Chr. Astey, received for his *New Bath Guide*, a humorous poem, 250%.

Dr John Berkenhont, Sept. 26, 1776, for the first volume of his *Biographia Literaria*, in quarto, £270.

Blackwell, for the first two volumes of his *court of Augustus*, quarto, £500. Professor Duncan agreed to make a Translation of *Plutarch's Lives*, for 600%.

Burke, April 24, 1758, contracted with Dodsley, to write the Annual Register, or a Retrospect of Men and Things, in the manner of Millar's Kalendar, in octavo, each volume for every year not to contain less than thirty sheets, nor more than thirty-four, for £100 per volume, and to have all books and pamphlets found him. Dodsley, if dissatisfied, was to give three months' notice. This document produced six guineas. There was also a receipt in full for fifty guineas to Burke, for the volume for 1762, when probably he ceased to write for the work. The Annual Register was conducted by Thomas English, for Dodsley, from 1768, onwards, and the receipts show that he received £140, for each year.

As a unique in literature was Burke's receipt, dated May 26, 1791, for £1000, the profits of his Reflections on the revolution in France, published as a 5s. volume. No author ever received so much on the sale of any such work !

A point frequently controverted, as Burke had himself omitted it in the collection of his works, was here set at rest. Burke assigned his History of the European Settlements in America to Dodsley, Jan. 2, 1757.

Colley Cibber assigned his Apology, March 24, 1749-50, for fifty guineas.

A receipt for six guineas for Burke's first published production, excited much notice ; it professed to be for the use of the author of Natural Society Vindicated, and was written in Lord Bolingbroke's style, to evince his aptitude at the manner, deemed difficult, of that illustrious statesman. Only 500 were to be printed of the first edition ; if it reached a second, the author was to receive six guineas more.

Susanna Cibber, April 1, 1752, the Comedy of the Oracle, in one act, for thirty guineas ; and Mrs Kitty Clive, March 24, 1753, her Rehearsal or Boys in Petticoats, for twenty guineas.

John Collet, the artist, whose humorous productions are usually assigned to the inimitable Hogarth, assigned his work entitled Chit Chat, Nov. 6, 1754, for twenty guineas.

Joseph Gilb. Cooper received for his letters concerning taste, £20, in books, &c.

March 31, 1763, Goldsmith contracted with Dodsley to write a Chronological History of the lives of eminent Persons of great Britain and Ireland, in octavo volumes, to range with the Universal History, each volume to comprise thirty-five sheets, at three guineas persheet. He this year resided at Canonbury Tower, Islington, perhaps for seclusion, to compile this work, which from some cause was abandoned. This contract produced at the sale, £7, 10s. In 1774, Goldsmith received five guineas for improving the second edition of his Essay on Polite learning, and for prefixing his name to the same; a receipt of three lines in Goldsmith's Autograph, was sold for £3. 5s.

Oct. 31, 1764. Goldsmith, then residing at chambers in the Inner Temple, on the library staircase, assigned to Dodsley and Newberry, his Oratorio of the Captivity, for ten guineas. This drama remained unpublished till a foul copy in Mr Heber's library was forwarded to Washington Irving, for his Paris edition of the poet's works. The present was a clear transcript, and evinced in almost every line the sedulous care of Goldsmith's amendments. The manuscript produced £25. 10s.

Jan. 2, 1779, Rev. Richard Graves, of Claverton, received for his translation of Columella, £20; and for the sorrows of Werter, the author of which work has not till now been discovered, he received, June 20, 1780, £40. Dodsley's note adds, that though this sum was in full, yet Mr Graves afterwards received as much more as made it £200.

Will. Guthrie, the historian, agreed to translate Ricerioboni on the Theatres, Index and all complete, for £10. 16s.

Hampton, in 1755, received for his translation of Polybius, two hundred and fifty guineas.

C. HORNE, July 4, 1791, for his Chronological Abridgment of the History of England, a single volume, octavo, £150.

In 1777 Soame Jenyns, for his puerile work, entitled Evidences of Christianity, received the enormous sum of £250.

Nov. 25, 1748, Dr Johnson assigned his translation of the tenth satire of Juvenal for fifty guineas, the author reserving to himself the right of printing an addition. This document produced seven guineas. Dr Johnson's autograph account of his tour in France, presented to his biographer, James Boswell the elder, by Malone, July 21, 1787, sold for 20*l.*; it was purchased at the sale of the library of Jas Boswell the younger, for ten guineas, a few years since.

Walker King received also £300, Nov. 21, 1791, for the copyright of Burke's letter to a member of the National Assembly: and his Appeal from the New to the Old Whigs, on his secession from Fox's party.

Mason, the biographer of Gray, has asserted that the poet never received any emolument for his writings, but this is false: Gray, June 29, 1757, assigned his two odes, the power of Poetry and the Bard, for forty guineas, reserving the right to reprint them in any edition of his works. The document produced eight guineas.

William Melmoth, April 30, 1755, for his translation of Cicero's familiar letters, 600*l.*; and for the thinner volume entitled *Lælius*, £100.

There were several autographs of Bishop Percy, and it is surprising that Dodsley, who had given such large sums for works of an inferior character, or not at all comparable for extent, should have obtained the first edition of Percy's ancient English Ballads, in three volumes, for one hundred guineas. The original agreement, dated May 22, 1761, stated the sum as the remuneration for three volumes in duodecimo, "to contain all I shall ever print of this work." It appears, however, that only two volumes were then ready, for these he was to have 70*l.*: and if a third volume was afterwards completed, the purchase-money for that volume was to be £35; "and in case any accident should prevent my completing the said work, after I have received any part of the aforesaid sum, I hereby declare that my folio manuscript, from which most of the said ballads are extracted, does in that case

become the property of the said J. Dodsley, or his executors, to indemnify him for such disbursement." March 25, 1793, Percy received £100. 3s. 10d. in part of the one hundred guineas for the copyright of the ancient Songs and Ballads; and on March 26, 1765, £4. 15s. 1d., the residue, in completion of the above contract.

Percy received, June 10, 1761, £50 in full, for his Chinese History, entitled *Hankion Choan*; on the same day ten guineas for his Chinese Proverbs, Chinese poetry, and Argument of the Chinese play; and ten guineas for the first impression of his version of Solomon's Song. March 25, 1763, he received ten guineas as a first payment for his Runic Poetry; and on the same day 20 guineas for his Miscellaneous pieces relating to the Chinese, in two volumes duodecimo, contracted for May 23, 1761.

In 1775 Percy's *Reliques* reached a third edition; and March 7, in that year, Dodsley agreed to pay him £40, at the end of five years from the time Percy should complete the work at press, and Dodsley deliver up to Percy as his property all the plates belonging to it, for allowing the publisher to print off 500 copies above the thousand formerly agreed for. Percy not to re-publish the work till all the 1500 copies were sold. Dodsley also waived the original restriction, that Percy was not to compile or print a fourth volume.

Robert Paltock, of Clement's Inn, assigned the manuscript of the life and adventures of Peter Wilkins, a Cornishman, to Dodsley, Jan. 11, 1749, for twenty guineas, twelve copies, and the cuts (or coppers used for the plates), of the first impression. The author of this work is now for the first time discovered.

Isaac Reed was the compiler of the four volumes of Poems known as *Pearch's collection*; Pearch being the publisher, the copyright was afterwards assigned to Dodsley. Reed, April 1, 1780, received the last portion of £100., for which he contracted, and completed the editing of the twelve volumes of old plays, published in that year. And on Nov. 13, in the fol-

lowing year, Dodsley paid him £50, for his notes to Robert Dodsley's collection of Poems, which were then republished.

Sept. 8. 1782, Reed received twenty guineas for re-editing Pearch's collection.

Nov. 7, 1766, Thomas Sheridan, for his Lectures on Elocution, forty guineas.

Aug. 4, 1764. Chr. Smart received for his translation of Phædrus, ten guineas.

Rev. Jos. Spence, whom Walpole designated "a neat silver penny in literature," received for his celebrated Polymetis £200.

Nov. 19, 1760, Dodsley paid Sterne for the first two volumes of his Tristram Shandy, and the first two volumes of the Sermons of Mr Yorick, £450—an astonishing sum, when it is recollected that Sterne proffered the first volume of Tristram Shandy for £50. On the same day Dodsley contracted to pay Sterne, six months after the work was completed at press, £380 for the third and fourth volumes. These two documents produced seven guineas. There was also a curious letter of J. Hall Stevenson, Sterne's Eugenius, author of Crazy tales, proffering to Dodsley the second part of his fables gratis, as he had formerly given the first.

Horace Walpole, afterwards Lord Orford, Jan. 23, 1768, for his Historic Doubts respecting Richard the Third, 100*l*.

Thomas Warton, Jan. 21, 1752, agreed to translate the Argonautics of Apollonius Rhodius for 80*l*; and at a subsequent date his brother, Dr. Joseph Warton, assigned his Essay on the life and writings of Pope, in two volumes octavo, for 200*l*.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodists, acknowledged to having pirated the copyright of some portions of the Night Thoughts, and some productions of Mrs Rowe, in his collection of Poems, and made restitution by agreeing to pay 50*l*. Feb. 8, 1744.

Jan. 16, 1740-1, William Whitehead received ten guineas in full for a poem entitled, The Dangers of writing verse.

Dr. Edw. Young received, Nov. 24, 1753, fifty guineas, which with 110 guineas before, was in full for the five first parts, or

W  
 nights, of a poem entitled Night Thoughts. For the sixth, called the Infidel Reclaimed, the author received, Jan. 26, 1744-5, fifty guineas; and on Feb. 19, 1755, he assigned his Centaur not fabulous, with the plate used as a frontispiece, for 200*l.*, which Dodsley was to pay six months after date.

88. PECK.

LOND. MAR. 24, 1836. The other day Basil Montagu spoke of Meredith the Vice-Master of Trin. Coll. Camb. He met one of the Fellows, Peck, who was a pretty considerable scoundrel, with a dog at his heels. He asked whose dog it was? Peck said that he would come after him. Aye, aye, said Meredith, I thought he was after no good. He confirmed the story about the snuff-box.

The Rev. John Mitford, who is in London, told me that the work called The Doctor was written by Southey; he speaks contemptuously of Porson, but Mitford in the Gent. Mag. defended him. He has now got a copy of Musembertius. He thinks that Wyttenback was a greater scholar than Parr. Parr once told him that, though Johnson could not write good Latin, yet he was a very good judge what was good Latin, when it came before him. Ruhnken's Latinity at least in one point was objected to by F. A. Wolf. Richard Potter M. P. whom I met at the house of Sir Fr. Waskett Myers, was once in company with Rob. Hall, when he poured forth lustily against the Unitarians, but he wound up his anathemas by saying he must allow them to be good friends to liberty.

89. MALTBY &C.

London-Institution, March 5, 1836, and at Mr Evans's in Pall Mall, 7th, I had a long conversation with Mr Maltby, the retired and now honorary Librarian, about Porson. He first became acquainted with him in 1782, and remembered him, when he was young, as a handsome man. Latterly his nose was disfigured by what Porson called an efflorescence, but which Mr Maltby considered to have been caused by a tumble in the street after the performance of Bacchic rites. Savage, who wrote the

Memoir of him, was dismissed from his sub-librarianship at the London-Institution for improper conduct. Porson always expressed great desire to preserve the Letter to Postlethwaite, which Savage first published, and which I republished in the *Parriana*. On religious opinions he was very close, disclosing nothing essential; he could not, however, be classed among infidels without great injustice, and he could hardly be regarded as a strict Member of the established Church, and certainly was not a dissenter. A passage or quotation in his Notes on Toup seems to convey his real opinions. He for a year and a half examined closely and painfully into the propriety of subscribing the XXXIX Articles, and conscientiously decided against subscription. When he lost his fellowship, and came to London, he had only a guinea in his pocket, and he managed to live on it for six weeks, good humoredly saying that he was a gentleman living in London with sixpence in his pocket. He was once arrested, and ever afterwards was very cautious by economical habits to avoid the chance of a like misfortune. He latterly grew fond of money, and had a pleasure in exhibiting 20 or 30 guineas. He was fond of taking porter for breakfast; on one occasion he was known to have had six pots of porter; he was no habitual drinker of spirits, but in default of other liquids he has been known to swallow embrocations and eye-water, etc. without any bad and visible result to his constitution. Mr M. often met him at the house of Mr Rogers;—On one of those occasions much had been said about Richard Bentley, when Dr Pearson, whose ignorance would be regarded by Mr Kidd as something awful, asked who Richard Bentley was. He did not like the presumption, with which scholars decide on the literary character of scholars, and was angry with Dr Bellen-den for high-flown compliments, asking what right he had to tell the height of a man, whom he cannot measure; but he was too parsimonious of praise, and was thus occasionally unjust. He would not allow that there was any difference between himself and others as to original capacity, because the sole difference lay in diligent cultivation of that original capacity. He insisted that he

could recollect only what he tried to recollect, and could recollect nothing without frequent or at least three perusals, but this was surely affectation, and is quite contrary to fact and experience, though we admit the prodigious diligence of Demosthenes, Cicero, Sir Wm Jones and Dr Parr. Porson attended a sale once, at which were put up some duplicates belonging to Mr M., who was present; among the rest was the book, entitled *Letters to Travia*; Porson found out to whom the duplicates belonged, and said to Mr Maltby, 'So you are turning me out?' 'Oh, no, Mr Professor, it is only a duplicate, I have a better copy for my own use.' 'Well,' said Porson, 'I got but £80 for my labors, but I have the consolation of thinking that my publisher lost money by the speculation.' He was very fond of Junius, whom he considered to be such a master of style, that nothing could be withdrawn or altered without injury; he could repeat the whole of the book or thereabouts. His favorite authors were Shakespeare, Junius, and Aristophanes; he was perfectly familiar with every part of them, and perhaps could repeat the former and the latter entire, as well as the second. Dr Burney declared that no man ever understood Aristophanes so well at the age of thirty, as Porson did.

#### 90. PORSON AND BANNISTER.

Jan. 1837. Porson and John Bannister the comædian were going down Piccadilly, when Jack pointed the Professor's attention to some Greek over a shoemaker's shop. 'What!' said Porson, 'do you know Greek?' 'Yes, I know it by sight.' The story is told in one of the Magazines, perhaps for Jan. 1837.

#### 91. TODDY AND TALEW.

April, 1837. Porson was left one night with a decanter of wine or spirit, and a candle; both were consumed; a friend came into the room; a remark was made, on which Porson said,

*Οὐδὲ τόδε οὐδὲ τἄλλο.*

*N. B.* Look for the passage, and correct it forthwith. A gentleman, whom I met at a Coffee-House, apparently a Jew,

said that he had been much in North America and the West-Indies, had seen various kinds of negroes, some even of a fair complexion; he added that he had discovered an infallible test for determining whether they were genuine negroes, or Mulattoes, or Creoles, etc. The test was this:—In the tips of the noses of the genuine negroes, instead of a division or slit as in Europeans, there is a roundness without any slit or division.

## 92. SING A SONG OF SIXPENCE &amp;c.

*Τετρωβελον τι μελπω,  
Κριθων τε πληρη σακκων,  
Και κοττυλους δις δωδεκα  
'Οπτους στεγει 'ν σιτευτῳ·  
Στεγους δ' αναπτυχθεντος  
'Ορνιθες εξεφωνευν  
'Ο δη δοκει τι λαμπρον  
Εἰ προσφεροῖτ' ἀνακτι.*

## 92. PORSON, MOORE, LORD NELSON.

KING'S BENCH, May 28, 1837. Mr Moore, a surgeon and fellow-prisoner, met Porson at the Cyder-Cellars in Maiden-Lane on the day of his marriage, and staid with him from 10 that night to 8 on the following morning. Mr Chaplin, (one side of whose face was shot away,) and Lord Mountford, the acting Police-Magistrate, were of the number present. Porson hated Murfett, afterwards Vicar of Kandal: (was his name so spelt?) He said that, if he swallowed a tenpenny-nail, it would come out a corkscrew,—that his mind was like his body,—that he had challenged him (Porson) only because he knew him to be the greatest coward in the kingdom! Lord Ellenborough, at the Trial of Warren Hastings, twirled a thread round his fingers, as he was very eloquently pleading; he dropped the thread, and being somewhat confused, was looking for it, when Sheridan asked if he was looking for the thread of his argument. He says that Lord Nelson's genitals were shot away at the Battle of Aboukir. He was once called in the middle of the night to attend a man, whose genitals had been cut off save and except half an inch only,

which remained for ornament and use. At length this man took a young and very handsome wife. Mr Moore, and Dr Adams, who had attended him to heal the wound, remonstrated with him, for having married in his circumstances of body; Mr Moore, when first applied to, made haste to the spot, bound up the arteries, and sent for Dr Adams. The man met the remonstrance by saying that he had performed the act and that it was not the length of the gun, but the strength of the powder, which caused success; in 12 months or less she had a very fine child, and afterwards had two other children.

Bishop Hurd acted most munificently by the See of Worcester; he ran out all the ecclesiastical leases but one, amassed £100,000. which was left to his successors in the See, left a magnificent Library to the See, furnished handsomely and suitably the palace at Hartlebury, and the official residence at Worcester, including a service of plate at an expense of £30,000, in solid cash, merely stipulating that his brother, who had so long lived in the official residence, should be permitted to continue there, occupying only two rooms. The condition was complied with, and the new Bishop, when he went to Worcester, insisted on being the guest of Mr Hurd, who was himself a gentleman of independent means. Lord Beauchamp's premises consisted of a freehold, and of lands held by Lease under the See, but the principal part was of the latter description. Lord B's lease was near expiring; he sent his steward to the Bishop, who was a man of too much pride to submit to an indignity, and therefore he rung the bell, desired his butler to communicate with the Steward, and left the room; the steward declined stating anything to the butler, and departed. The Nobleman then went in person to the bishop, was disposed to be high and complained of harsh treatment, but the bishop took the conceit out of him by saying that, as his lordship sent his servant, instead of coming himself he thought proper to do the same. With respect to the question of the lease, the subject was new to him; he wanted time to consider,—he could give no immediate answer,—he was much occupied, he could not see his lordship at the

time named, or even name a day, he would send a note to say when he would see his lordship; he sent his surveyor over the property, who advised that the buildings should be pulled down, and a plain house built in their place;—this report soon reached the ears of Lord Beauchamp, who became alarmed, and said that sooner than lose his house, he would give up his freehold. At length the bishop sent a note to invite Lord Beauchamp to dine with him; the first impulse was that the invitation should be rejected, but policy required courtesy, and dictated the fear of giving offence; for the lease itself had in the interim expired. The invitation was accepted, but the bishop was provokingly distant; hour after hour passed, and nothing was said; at length the subject was cautiously approached, and the parties were fairly committed in discussion; the bishop said, and appealed to his surveyor's report in saying, that it would be better to pull down the buildings,—he then made a long pause,—but, he added,—but, if his lordship would give £50 to this charity, £50 to that, and £50 to a third, he would give a rentless lease to him for as long as he lived. The noble Lord was astounded; and sent £1000, which the bishop divided among the charities.

### 93. RITSON, DUBOIS, &c.

The Fleet, Aug. 14, 1837. Mr C. Dubois says that Porson said that he had just had a letter from Ritson, 'damn his little eyes,' alluding to his always using the small letter even with proper names. Mr Rodd says that Sir James Mackintosh made three great blunders in copying from Sir Thomas More's works, and I suppose that they are given in his life of him in Dr Lardner's Cabinet-cyclopædia. W. H. Clark followed Mackintosh's history of England, and was surprised to find, so far as he examined, that there were at least two blunders in a page, of one kind or other. I spoke of his blunder in reference to Samuel Dyer, whose claims he advocated in the Edinburgh-review in a note, I think, on the controversy respecting the Icon basilike.

## 94. SLEEP—ANNIUS VITERBIENSIS—WRITING.

1. Meric Casaubon in his book on Use and Custom p. 33, speaks of one, who could do without sleep.

2. Speaks of Annus Viterbiensis as having forged Manetho, Berosus, etc. which Scholars quote as genuine, pp. 85. 188. Addenda. Anthon under Manetho calls him Nanni; see Berosus, Cato.

3. In my copy of R. Johnson's Aristarchus there is a MS. Letter by Johnson to Gronovius, and on the margin some beautiful hand-writing

## 95. PORSON.

The Fleet, Dec. 27, 1837. Mr Chambers says that at one of the trials in his affairs, Lord Tenterden was arguing how Mr Chambers would have committed an act of bankruptcy, if he had done so and so; the Assignees took the hint, and by the time when the next trial was to take place, they were provided with evidence of the sort, which his Lordship kindly said would have established the point in dispute! The Lady who visits Mr Chambers, is sister to Mr Webster, whose husband has the Haymarket Theatre; she is dress-maker to the Aldgate Theatre; she was devotedly attached to her mother lately deceased, and fainted at the grave; her mother had a long illness, and as the apothecary was getting awkward about his bill, she gave a written undertaking to him that she would see the bill paid; he took out a writ against her, the Sheriff's officer did not know her person or voice, and took a young man, who could identify both; her voice is very peculiar; they had hunted her about her residence, but she had eluded them by taking the opportunity of going quietly to her sister's on the opposite side of the Haymarket; they next tried the Aldgate Theatre; she was likely to be in the robing-room; the young man heard her voice, and declared to the officer that she was in the room; the women in the room denied that she was there; the young man said that he should know her peculiar voice out of 10,000; they were not allowed to enter; they hovered about; at length the girls and women got her to lie

quietly down in a large chest, and while one of the party invited the officer and indicator in, the rest were to sit very cleverly on the lid of the chest rank and file; the party came in and could not see the object of their choice; they were handed about or found their way to another point, where they managed one to pull the other down a flight of steps, and amidst jeers and laughter got at length in spite of knocks and bruises into the street, and having thus ingloriously made their first appearance on that stage, proceeded to perform in another quarter. She is all frolic and fun.

Compare the Article Cornutus in my Lempriere.

#### 96. PORSON AND GEO. BURGES.

Porson advised him not to write well for the printers; if he did, they would send forth a fouler proof than if the MS had been very difficult to read, in which case they would have put it into the hands of an experienced workman. Mr James Black of Woolwich, a printer, to whom this was addressed here, admitted that there was something in this, but was unwilling to admit that it was universally true.

Two Irishmen were travelling and asked the distance of one place from another, 10 miles was the reply, one thought it much, the other said, 'Pooh! it is only five miles apiece.'

#### 97. THE SAME.

The Fleet, Jan. 15, 1838. Priestley told Geo. Burges that Porson was once in his shop, when a gentleman came in, and asked for a particular edition of Demosthenes, which Priestley had not, but tendered others; Porson's attention was drawn to the inquirer, and he asked whether he wanted to refer to any particular passage; he named the passage; Porson asked Priestley if he had an Aldine edition; it was produced, Porson turned over a few leaves, and put his finger on that identical passage, shewing his familiarity with its position in that edition. Burges considers that Porson's forte in the poetics was parody; by that mark his compositions in the Spirit of the Public journals may be known.

Disney, in the story told by Clark, desired Porson to write as badly as possible.

98. MAJOR REVELL.

Aug. 25, 1838. Major Revell drew the attention of Porson to a literary imposition, which was unknown to him. In purchasing some books from a bookseller he observed one entitled *Persian Letters*, which he took for granted, was the work of Lord Lyttleton about the constitution of Gt Britain and Ireland. But on examination he found that it was the production of some Tory, who by mutilation here, interpolation there, and change everywhere, had imprudently and fraudulently torified the book to his taste, still retaining the original title. To increase the saleable qualities of the book, he has inserted a long ghost-story.

Aug. 25, 1838. Major Revell was very intimate with Porson, who never refused to dine with him, when he asked him. On one occasion he found him collating two editions of the *Icon Basilice*, on which subject, however, he does not appear to have delivered any opinion. One of the daughters of Major Revell was, when very young, taught the translation of an *Anacreontic Ode*, as translated by Cowley. The child was very fond of repeating this, and, when Porson was dining there, asked if she was to repeat *Anacreon's Ode*; Porson was surprised beyond measure; the child went through the recitation; Porson doubted if so young a creature could understand what she repeated; she was questioned, and by varying the words without changing their meaning, shewed that she did. Porson took her on his knee, caressed her, and repeated to her the same Ode in Greek, and in German, French, and Italian translations. The Major spoke of a well known person, who lives at Hampstead in a Gothic cottage, called *Memory Thompson*, from his prodigious faculty of recollecting the number of houses in an entire street, and the names and the business of the occupiers. He could do this with respect to several streets. He also spoke of *Harris*, who used to live at *Walton* on the *Thames*, and whose daughter married *Masterman the Banker*.

He once laid a wager that he would travel in a post-chaise from Hyde Park Corner to Walton, and keep repeating from the British poets the whole of the way. The Major called and asked him to afford him some specimens of his art. He desired him to take down any of the British Poets; the Major fetched Milton, tried him in several places, and he repeated whole series of lines in Par. Lost and Par. Regained. Shakespeare was next tried, and he offered to repeat a whole play, and could repeat all the slang parts. Pope was next tried with the like result. He said that he could do the same by Chaucer, Spenser, and all the standard British Poets. He first discovered his faculty on the publication of Johnson's pamphlet on the Falkland-Islands; he had read over the pamphlet carefully once; on the following day he met with a party of gentlemen, who had all seen, but who each cited passages from it inaccurately; Mr Harris put each of them right; at length he was asked to try if he could not repeat the whole pamphlet, which he did. On another occasion he repeated from the Gazetteer newspaper a letter of gibberish, signed Quiz, and written in imitation and ridicule of Johnson's style.

## 99. PORSON, EVANS, TATE.

Cambridge, Nov. 4, 1834. R. W. Evans says that Porson came into the Hall at our Scholarship-Examination in 1807. His face was fiery and volcanic.

Mr. Tate has the original Letter to Dalzell.

## 100. GIBBON.

"It will be recollected that the celebrated,—the very justly celebrated—Professor Porson, in speaking of the Works of Gibbon, said that they would be excellent, (or something to that effect,) if they were translated into English. The historian heard of the bon mot, and spoke of it with good-nature, and of its author, of course, with respect."

## 101. LOOSE SCRAPs RELATING TO PROFESSOR PORSON, NOT

## MADE PUBLIC.

In the afternoon of Monday the 19th of September, 1808, Mr. Southall, residing at No 9 America-Square, while passing

along the Strand to the Council Office, observed a well dressed person lying in an extended position on the pavement at the corner of Northumberland-Street, apparently in a fit, and unheeded by all the passengers. But Mr Southall, from motives of humanity, seeing a man, much above the common orders of society, thus exposed, instantly stopped, and set him up against the wall of the adjoining house. At that moment a Mr Poole, a magistrate, came by, and, his attention being caught by the circumstance, readily offered any assistance, which it was in his power to give, and kindly continued with him (the Professor Porson,) till proper care was taken of him. Some females, belonging to the corner habitation, against which Mr Porson was placed, came out, and rendered him much service in sending him a chair,—rubbing his temples,—and administering two glasses of wine.

Mr Southall, seeing him so tenderly treated, went in search of an apothecary, who on looking at him, turned away, while saying, That he could do him no good, as he could not get over it,—therefore medicine would be useless. Mr Southall then went to St Martin's Watch-house to make enquiries for the Beadle, who returned with him, and in their way three others joined them, and carried him in the chair, in which he then was, to this miserable lodging. When arrived, the keepersaid, he would readily take him in, but that they had no accommodation for persons in his situation, and recommended them to proceed on to the Workhouse in Castle-Street. Here they met with different treatment; for on the question being put, the Master positively refused to admit him without a proper order. This created much delay, and Mr Porson still continued in a senseless state.

Mr Southall then proceeded in search of the Churchwardens; and one of them came with him to the house, but like the master, seemed unwilling to lend a helping hand, saying: 'The gentlemen,' (meaning Mess. Southall and Poole,) 'had taken too much trouble with 'a man, that appeared to the Master and himself to be much in 'liquor.' On which Mr Poole took up the matter

with a becoming spirit, saying, 'That he was a Magistrate, and insisted that they should take him in, or they might depend on having the matter brought forward elsewhere,' at the same time tendering both his own and Mr Southall's address, with a promise that they would be answerable for every expense he might incur. This reply had its desired effect; for he was instantly admitted, and an inventory taken of every thing in his pockets. When this was concluded, he was taken into the general room, filled with objects of all descriptions, and exhibiting a scene of wretchedness and misery, and measures taken for undressing him. But his kind attendants strongly objected to his being placed in an apartment, that contained so many sick persons, and desired to be informed if they had no better accommodation,—a room more private, and better calculated for one in his situation? to which a negative was given. But they still persisted that he should not be put to bed there, and offered money to any one around, who would admit him to their house. But no one seemed willing to comply. Mr Southall, by the advice of some one, then went to Northumberland-Place in the Strand, to one of the Overseers, whom in his hurry he had forgotten to be the person vested with most authority in that house, and found him at home, and he proved to be the only gentlemanly character he had met with of all the officers in the Parish. He accordingly accompanied him, and asked the Governor why he did not give orders that the person brought in should be well accommodated? and immediately desired that he should be admitted into the Ward set apart for the married poor, which was accordingly done. A bedstead was let down, on which was placed a decent feather-bed, and in the presence of the aforesaid gentleman, the Professor was put to bed. The Overseer likewise gave orders that he might have every attention paid him, and that, if he came to himself, he might have whatever refreshment he thought fit for his supper, or any cordials independent of what the Parish-Apothecary might prescribe, with breakfast on the following morning, when he would again call, and in the mean while use his endeavours to discover

to whom he belonged. He then took down Mr Southall and Mr Poole's address, who also promised to repeat their visit at that time. The overseer then left them, and Mess. Southall and Poole seeing the Professor, at length, put comfortably to bed, with proper attention, also took their leave. On the Tuesday-morning Mr Southall fulfilled his engagement, and on enquiry found that the Professor had been taken away (by Mr Savage.) What passed during the night, or how long he remained insensible, Mr Southall was not able to learn.

From a paragraph in the British Press of Tuesday, Sept. 20, announcing the foregoing circumstance, and Mr Porson having been absent from the Institution the whole of Monday-night, and the description answering the character and dress of the Professor, strong suspicions were entertained by C. Torrence, the young lad employed in the Institution, who first saw the notice, that it really was Mr Porson placed in such a situation; he accordingly communicated his suspicions to Mr Savage, the Clerk, who, to do him justice, lost no time in ascertaining the fact:—when it certainly proved to be the Professor. I had just reached the Institution, and the circumstance of Mr Porson's absence was told me, and I felt anxious for Mr Savage's return. Accordingly I waited a few minutes in the Hall: soon afterwards a coach drew up to the door, and I saw the poor Professor so weak as to be led up the steps leading to the entrance. This was exactly at fifty minutes past nine o'clock. When he came into the Hall, I was leaning against the table, and to my knowledge was never so much struck at the altered figure of any one; his countenance was so changed,—his whole frame so emaciated, and so enfeebled,—his eyes sunk in,—his lips black,—and a death-like hue exhibited in his face; in short, his whole person depicted a character of absolute wretchedness and misery. The sight of so incomparable a scholar, and worthy man, affected me exceedingly.

As soon as he entered the door, he cast his eyes up at the clock, where they remained fixed for the space of a minute; pulling out his watch at the same time. It had gone down; he attempted to

set it going, but he was so much weakened, that he could not open the case, and it was with difficulty that he held it in his hand. I took it from him, and wound it up; then returned it into his hand. He continued to hold it till he reached his own room, when he let it fall, and broke the glass. He remained in his apartment about half an hour, then came into one of the rooms of the Library (the Globe-Room), where Mr Ilbuy and myself were sitting, and placed himself at the table exactly opposite us. He held his watch still in his hand and pointed out to us the accident, that had just before happened to the glass. To prevent its receiving further injury, I asked him for it, and locked it up in the table-drawer. His voice from the fit was materially affected; and it seemed to be the greatest difficulty for him to hold any regular conversation. I began by asking him if he had any recollection of the misfortune, which had befallen him? the circumstance of which much surprised me, because, when I left the Institution the preceding day a few minutes past one o'clock, I saw him reading at his desk, as was his usual manner at this hour. He said he had no knowledge whatever of it, nor could he conceive what he could be doing as far as Northumberland-St. though he well remembered having just before called at Mr Perry's. I then asked him if this was the first time he had met with such an accident? To which he said that a few years ago, while at dinner with Mr Perry, a fit of a similar nature seized him; if some one present had not noticed his fainting state, he must have met with a serious fall on his head, but luckily he was caught, while in the act of dropping from the chair.

#### 102. MS. REFERENCES TO BOOKS CONCERNING PROFESSOR

##### PORSON.

1. In the Monthly Repository, Oct. 1808, is a long and excellent Article on Porson by D.

2. There is a second Article, it seems, which is perhaps part of of the other; it is brief, and runs thus:—"We are informed in the Morning-Chronicle of Oct. 6, 1808," and ending with, "Purchased by his College."

3. Mr Wm Upcott's book contains Savage's Account of Porson's last Illness, but he has added this note, "Very incorrect in many parts. W. U."

4. In the Morn. Chron. Oct. 6, 1808, is a long account of Porson's funeral.

5. Quote Vernon's Life of Dr Peter Heylin, p. 65, for the epigram on Charity Mistaken. For the Eagle killed by an arrow feathered with its own plumes, see p. 109. Living Library p. 145. Learning the study of mean men, p. 223. On blindness p. 267.

6. On precocity etc. see the article Saunderson in Chalmers.

7. Parr and Porson are noticed in the Flin-Flams by D'Israeli, 1805, 12mo, V. 3.

8. In my copy of the Sexagenarian are MS. notes on the part about Porson.

9. May 12, 1797, died Mrs Porson, wife of R. Porson, M. A., Greek Professor of Cambridge, to whom she had not long been married, (4 months.) Gent's Mag. Vol. 67.

10. BOCHII Symbolae, 2 Ed's, the plates superior in one : excellent verse, Burges says.

11. IKENII Symbolæ Literariæ about plagiarisms.

12. 3 Copies of vellum of Medea, one of them given to Sir Geo. Baker. Burges thinks that he saw the fact stated in Dibdin's Classics.

13. PORSON wrote lines on Hayley the Poet, which have within the last five years been quoted in the Gent. Mag.

14. In the No of the Quarterly review which reviews arch-deacon Coxe's Marlborough's Correspondence is an anecdote of Porson's memory from a MS. of Coxe.

15. PORSON. There are notices of him in the Gallery of Portraits, quoted in the Globe Newspaper, Febr. 16, 1836.

16. Character of a Dunce, see Dr Donne's Paradoxes, Lond. 1652. 12mo. p. 67.

17. Geo. Burges knows a Mr. Allen, (not the editor of Sallust,) formerly a schoolmaster, who has a book with MS. Notes by Porson.

18. On the three heavenly witnesses, see *Notitia Scriptorum ab J. L. Moshemio editorum, Helmstadii, 1731. 12mo. p. 74.*

16. With Porson's assuming the character of a drover, compare the Earl of Rochester, p. 152.

20. Porson and Parr are noticed in the *Plain Speaker, Opinions on books, men, and things, 2 vols 1826. 8vo. which I bought in London, apparently by Hazlitt.*

21. Miscellaneous poems, dedicated to the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Moira, by W. T. Fitzgerald Esq. London, 1801. 8vo, pp. 190. It contains "Anniversary poems for the Literary fund, for 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800." See Leigh Cliffe's *Anecdotal Reminiscences of distinguished literary and political Characters, 1830. See p. 214. 272. p. 86. John P. Kemble forgot to fetch home his bride on the day of marriage.*

22. Porson : see *Le Bas's Life of Dr Middleton, 1, 9.*

23. Porson wrote letters in the *Morning-Chronicle*, signed *Mythologus*, as Dr Scott told me, of 12 Bedford Square. They seem to have been reprinted, are in the *London-Institution*, and Dr Scott was in a few days to get Mr Maltby to shew the Papers to him.

24. Several notices of Porson in Genest's *History of the Stage.*

25. Porson wrote a review of Wytttenbach's edition of *Plutarchus de libera educatione*, in the *Monthly Review* 1793 : p. 257—264 : also Dr Norbury's &c. : also Ruggle's *Ignoramus* : 3 articles on the *Parian Chronicle* : one on *Hewlitt* : and one on the dissertation which stands before it.

26. Porson's hat and a chamber pot : *Query.* Porson's *Eloisa*, *Monthly Review* 64, 153. Mrs Luxmore, wife of Dr Luxmore, bishop of St Asaph, has Porson's Frying pan out of the fire. *Query.* Letters also. Porson's Catechism. Apply to Disraeli.

27. See *Plain Speaker, Opinions on Books, Men and Things, 2 vols 1826, 8vo. Query by Hazlitt.*

28. Letters in *Morning Chron.* signed *Mythologus* (*Query* reprinted) are in *London Institution.* In *Monthly Repository*, Oct. 1808, article by D.

29. Anecdote of Porson in Quarterly Review. No containing Coxé's Correspondence of Marlborough.

30. Notices in Gallery of Portraits, quoted by Globe, Feb. 16, 1836.

31. Dr T. Young was a friend of P. : he has given a sketch in the Supplement to last edition of Encyclopædia Britannica.

32. Warner, (in Literary Recollections) says Porson wrote a hundred epigrams in one night. Is Porson's Catechism in Facetiæ Cantabrigienses ?

33. Corrected for Upcott, more than two thousand errors in the reprint of 1st folio edition of Shakespeare by White and Cochrane—sold by Upcott to Wheatley, then to Perry, at Perry's sale to—

34. When G. Burges once asked Porson's opinion about a passage, he answered "I have not made up my mind."

35. Porson laid a wager he could rhyme to any thing, When Dido found Æneas would not come, She mourned in silence, and was Di-do-dum.

36. In Lacon is the account of Porson's travelling in the stage coach with the young man who pretended to quote from Euripides, Sophocles, &c. At every quotation Porson produced the book from his pocket and begged to have the place found out for him.

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